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Daily Report

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10 October 1995

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Candidate Lists for Elections Published (Part IX)

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[Federal list of candidates for deputy to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for balloting in elections from federal electoral district, presented by the All-Russia Sociopolitical Movement Russia Is Our Home electoral association. Appendix to protocol of the Congress of the Electoral Association of the All-Russia Sociopolitical Movement Russia Is Our Home of 3 September 1995. Copy of list registered with the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on 6 September 1995 (Decree No. 13/98-11]

[FBIS Translated Text] **1. Chernomyrdin, Viktor Stepanovich.** Born 9 April 1938. Government of the Russian Federation, chairman of the government. Resides in Moscow.

2. Mikhalkov, Nikita Sergeyevich. Born 21 October 1945. Film producer. Resides in Moscow.

3. Rokhlin, Lev Yakovlevich. Born 6 June 1947. Eighth Guard Army Corps, corps commander. Resides in the city of Volgograd.

4. Belyayev, Sergey Georgiyevich. Born 6 April 1954. Federal Coordinating Committee, first deputy chairman. Resides in Moscow.

5. Karimova, Daniya Yusufovna. Born 7 November 1946. Kazan Medical Academy, professor, Department of Social Medicine, Economics and Public Health Administration. Resides in the city of Kazan.

6. Alferov, Zhores Ivanovich. Born 15 March 1930. Russian Academy of Sciences, academician, vice president. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

7. Volchek, Galina Borisovna. Born 19 December 1933. Moscow Theatre "Sovremennik," chief director. Resides in Moscow.

8. Travkin, Nikolay Ilich. Born 19 March 1948. Government of the Russian Federation, member of the government. Resides in the village of Shakhovskoy, Shakhovskoy Rayon, Moscow Oblast.

9. Kinelev, Vladimir Georgiyevich. Born 28 January 1945. Goskomvuz [State Committee on Higher Educational Institutions] of Russia, chairman. Resides in Moscow.

10. Bashmachnikov, Vladimir Fedorovich. Born 27 March 1937. Association of Peasant (Individual) Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives of Russia, president. Resides in Moscow.

11. Martynov, Aleksandr Gavrilovich. Born 21 December 1942. Union of Cossacks, ataman. Resides in Moscow.

12. Ryzhkov, Vladimir Aleksandrovich. Born 3 September 1966. State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, deputy. Resides in the city of Barnaul.

Republic of Adygea

1. Khapachev, Aslan Nurbayevich. Born 15 June 1963. Republic of Adygea Committee on Affairs of Youth, Physical Culture, and Sports, deputy chairman. Resides in the city of Maykop.

2. Usacheva, Lyubov Alekseyevna. Born 10 July 1950. Republic Council of the Trade Union of Public Health Workers, chairman. Resides in the city of Maykop.

Republic of Altay

1. Gnezdilov, Mikhail Zakharovich. Born 3 January 1946. State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, deputy. Resides in the city of Gorno-Altaysk.

2. Bedyurov, Brontoy Yavgodich. Born 20 March 1947. Republic Committee on the Press, chairman. Resides in the city of Gorno-Altaysk.

Republic of Bashkortostan

1. Bugera, Mikhail Yevgenyevich. Born 14 January 1961. Legislative Chamber of the State Assembly of the Republic of Bashkortostan, official representative of the president of the Republic of Bashkortostan. Resides in the city of Ufa.

2. Bignov, Ramil Imamagzamovich. Born 13 February 1956. Republic International Fund "Interprivatizatsiya," director. Resides in the city of Ufa.

3. Khismatullin, Rashit Sagitovich. Born 7 December 1944. Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Bashkortostan, minister. Resides in the city of Ufa.

4. Kharlov, Aleksey Ivanovich. Born 14 May 1936. Republic of Bashkortostan, official on federal programs. Resides in the city of Ufa.

5. Magadeyev, Marat Sharifovich. Born 20 July 1962. Ministry of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, and on Emergency Situations of the Republic of Bashkortostan, deputy minister. Resides in the city of Ufa.

Republic of Buryatiya

1. Danilov, Boris Vasilyevich. Born 7 November 1951. Buryat Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of

Sciences, scientific secretary. Resides in the city of Ulan-Ude.

2. **Belousov, Vladimir Vasilyevich.** Born 17 January 1950. Administration of the village of Zagorsk, Zheleznodorozhnyy Rayon, city of Ulan-Ude, head of administration. Resides in the city of Ulan-Ude.

Republic of Dagestan

1. **Askerkhanov, Gamid Rakhidovich.** Born 18 July 1958. Dagestan Medical Academy, head of department. Resides in the city of Makhachkala.

2. **Zamerzhayev, Danil Ramazanovich.** Born 1 January 1933. Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Dagestan, minister. Resides in the city of Makhachkala.

3. **Manarov, Musa Khiromanovich.** Born 22 March 1951. Pilot-cosmonaut of the USSR. Resides in Moscow.

Ingush Republic

1. **Pliyev, Aliskhan Sultanovich.** Born 11 August 1951. Administration of Sunzhenskiy Rayon, Ingush Republic, head of administration. Resides in the village of Ordzhonikidzevskaya, Sunzhenskiy Rayon, Ingush Republic.

2. **Yandiyeva, Maryam Dzhemaldinovna.** Born 13 August 1953. Ingush department of the Memorial society, chairman. Resides in the city of Balashikha, Moscow Oblast.

Kabardino-Balkar Republic

1. **Ulbashev, Mukharbi Magomedovich.** Born 15 May 1960. Committee on International Relations of the Parliament of the Kabardino-Balkar Republic, cochairman. Resides in the city of Nalchik.

2. **Fedchenko, Lyudmila Mikhaylovna.** Born 18 December 1940. Parliament of the Kabardino-Balkar Republic, deputy chairman. Resides in the city of Nalchik.

Republic of Kalmykia-Khalmg Tangch

1. **Golovagol, Aleksandr Vasilyevich.** Born 22 March 1952. Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee on Administration of State Property] of the Republic of Kalmykia, chairman. Resides in the city of Elista.

2. **Ilyumzhinov, Vyacheslav Nikolayevich.** Born 14 August 1958. Republic of Kalmykia, state advisor. Resides in the city of Elista.

Karachay-Cherkess Republic

1. **Afanasyev, Aleksandr Ivanovich.** Born 13 November 1950. AO [joint-stock company] Karachayevo-Cherkesskienergo, general director. Resides in the city of Cherkessk.

2. **Salpagarov, Dzhapar Semitovich.** Born 4 May 1935. Teberdinskiy State Game Preserve, director. Resides in the city of Teberda, Karachay-Cherkess Republic.

Republic of Karelia

1. **Kotsyuba, Natalya Vladimirovna.** Born 3 December 1954. Territorial Agency on Affairs of Insolvency (Bankruptcy), director. Resides in the city of Petrozavodsk.

2. **Titov, Aleksandr Mikhaylovich.** Born 9 October 1941. Concern "EKE," director-manager. Resides in the city of Petrozavodsk.

Republic of Komi

1. **Rassokhin, Gennadiy Vasilyevich.** Born 4 February 1937. Ukhta Industrial Institute, rector. Resides in the city of Ukhta, Republic of Komi.

2. **Popov, Aleksandr Nikolayevich.** Born 7 June 1957. Administration of the city of Inta, head of administration. Resides in the city of Inta, Republic of Komi.

Republic of Mari El

1. **Smirnov, Anatoliy Alekseyevich.** Born 11 November 1941. Government of the Republic of Mari El, first deputy head. Resides in the city of Yoshkar-Ola.

2. **Yanalov, Vasiliy Georgiyevich.** Born 24 March 1952. Republic Library, director. Resides in the city of Yoshkar-Ola.

Republic of Mordvinia

1. **Sirotkin, Vladimir Dmitriyevich.** Born 19 July 1947. Government of the Republic of Mordvinia, deputy chairman of the government. Resides in the city of Saransk.

2. **Lonakov, Valentin Vasilyevich.** Born 9 June 1939. Representation of the president of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Mordvinia, official representative. Resides in the city of Saransk.

Republic of Sakha (Yakutiya)

1. **Ivanov, Kliment Yegorovich.** Born 10 November 1936. Representation of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutiya) to the president of the Russian Federation, permanent representative. Resides in Moscow.

Republic of Northern Ossetia

1. Tsaliyev, Aleksandr Mikhaylovich. Born 5 January 1951. Ministry of Justice of the Republic of North Ossetia, minister. Resides in the city of Vladikavkaz.

2. Ishchemko, Viktor Petrovich. Born 12 October 1954. Organ of local self-government of Mozdokskiy Rayon, Republic of North Ossetia, acting head. Resides in village of Komarovo, Mozdokskiy Rayon, Republic of North Osetia.

3. Bzarov, Ruslan Suleymanovich. Born 14 June 1958. North Ossetia State University, docent. Resides in the city of Vladikavkaz.

Republic of Tatarstan

1. Sayfullin, Insar Sharifullovich. Born 16 November 1945. Kazan representation of the PO [production association] YelAZ, first deputy director-technical director. Resides in the city of Kazan.

2. Almyashkin, Vasiliy Petrovich. Born 25 June 1966. Tatar Republic Organization of the Russian Fund for Invalids of the War in Afghanistan, chairman of the board. Resides in the city of Kazan.

3. Sabitov, Rakhil Gumerovich. Born 5 August 1948. State Council of the Republic of Tatarstan, deputy. Resides in the city of Kazan.

4. Ovsennko, Lyubov Vasilyevna. Born 11 October 1951. Center for Humanitarian Projects and Studies of Kazan State University, director. Resides in the city of Kazan.

5. Mukhamadiyev, Rinat Safiyevich. Born 10 December 1948. Union of Writers of Republic of Tatarstan, chairman of the board. Resides in the city of Kazan.

Republic of Tyva

1. Bagay-ool, Vladimir Barimovich. Born 3 December 1951. Administration of the President of the Republic of Tyva, advisor to the president. Resides in the city of Kyzyl.

2. Oyun, Vadim Orambalovich. Born 1 January 1944. Government of the Republic of Tyva, first deputy head. Resides in the city of Kyzyl.

Udmurt Republic

1. Kasikhin, Sergey Pavlovich. Born 28 March 1950. Government of the Udmurt Republic, deputy chairman of government. Resides in the city of Izhevsk.

2. Storonkin, Yevgeniy Petrovich. Born 22 September 1938. AO Sarapulskiy Electrical Generator Plant, general director. Resides in the city of Sarapul, Udmurt Republic.

3. Kuznetsova, Natalya Fedorovna. Born 14 May 1953. Ministry of Social Protection of the Population of the Udmurt Republic, first deputy minister. Resides in the city of Izhevsk.

Republic of Khakassia

1. Maslov, Vasiliy Mikhaylovich. Born 28 March 1942. Sorsk Molybdenum Combine, director. Resides in the city of Sorsk, Republic of Khakassia.

Chechen Republic

1. Zorin, Vladimir Yuryevich. Born 9 April 1948. Territorial administration of federal organs of executive power in the Chechen Republic, first deputy director. Resides in Moscow.

2. Zavgayev, Doku Gapurovich. Born 22 December 1940. Administration of the President of the Russian Federation on Work With Territories, section chief. Resides in Moscow.

Chuvash Republic—Chuvash Republic

1. Ablyakhimov, Enver Azizovich. Born 2 April 1948. Cabinet of Ministers of the Chuvash Republic, chairman of cabinet. Resides in the city of Cheboksary.

2. Dolgov, Anatoliy Alekseyevich. Born 13 January 1944. Administration of the city of Novocheboksarsk, Chuvash Republic, head of administration. Resides in the city of Novocheboksarsk, Chuvash Republic.

3. Polikarpov, Anatoliy Polikarpovich. Born 19 February 1945. Enterprise Chuvashgaz, director. Resides in the city of Cheboksary.

Altay Kray

1. Skrota, Mikhail Makarovich. Born 7 November 1933. Poultry farm Molodezhnaya, Pervomayskiy Rayon, director. Resides in the village of Pervomayskoye, Pervomayskiy Rayon, Altay Kray.

2. Mironov, Valeriy Leonidovich. Born 8 December 1939. Altay State University, rector. Resides in the city of Barnaul.

3. Tolstov, Viktor Konstantinovich. Born 15 August 1947. AO Altayselmashkholding, general director. Resides in the city of Rubtsovsk, Altay Kray.

4. Ovchinnikov, Vladimir Petrovich. Born 22 Aril 1956. Administration of the city of Barnaul, senior advisor to head of administration. Resides in the city of Barnaul.

Krasnodar Kray

1. **Andreyev, Aleksey Petrovich.** Born 17 February 1958. Kuban State University, head of political science department. Resides in the city of Krasnodar.

2. **Gorlova, Irina Ivanovna.** Born 20 August 1941. Krasnodar State Academy of Culture, rector. Resides in the city of Krasnodar.

3. **Kovalenko, Boris Ivanovich.** Born 29 August 1945. AO Kubankhimmash, general director. Resides in the city of Krasnodar.

4. **Doroshenko, Galina Stepanovna.** Born 15 September 1947. Department of Social Protection of the Population of the Kray Administration, general director. Resides in the city of Krasnodar.

5. **Voronin, Stanislav Nikolayevich.** Born 16 June 1932. Educational-commercial firm Vektor-Plus, executive director. Resides in the city of Krasnodar.

6. **Solovyeva, Tatyana Sergeyevna.** Born 25 November 1956. Rayon newspaper PROVINTSIALNAYA GAZETA, editor. Resides in the city of Labinsk, Krasnodar Kray.

Krasnoyarsk Kray

1. **Podufalov, Nikolay Dmitriyevich.** Born 22 May 1949. Krasnoyarsk State University, rector. Resides in the city of Krasnoyarsk.

2. **Makharyev, Igor Viktorovich.** Born 27 February 1961. AOOT [open-type joint-stock company] Repair-Construction Administration-1, general director. Resides in the city of Nazarovo, Krasnoyarsk Kray.

3. **Chekhovskaya, Natalya Mikhaylovna.** Born 12 July 1960. Krasnoyarsk Theatre of Opera and Ballet, leading ballerina. Resides in the city of Krasnoyarsk.

4. **Damm, Aleksandr Ivanovich.** Born 26 November 1955. AO Novoselovskoye, director. Resides in village of Novoselovo, Novoselovskiy Rayon, Krasnoyarsk Kray.

5. **Demyanenko, Yegor Aleksandrovich.** Born 12 January 1937. Achinsk Petroleum Processing Plant, director. Resides in the city of Achinsk, Krasnoyarsk Kray.

Maritime Kray

1. **Zabolotnikov, Anatoliy Anatolyevich.** Born 30 November 1952. Maritime Kray administration, section head. Resides in the city of Vladivostok.

2. **Vilchinskiy, Leonid Platonovich.** Born 23 November 1951. Khorolskiy Rayon Administration, Maritime Kray, head of administration. Resides in village of Khorol. Khorolskiy Rayon, Maritime Kray.

3. **Misykov, Viktor Mikhaylovich.** Born 2 February 1930. AO Far Eastern Steamship Lines, general director. Resides in the city of Vladivostok.

Stavropol Kray

1. **Petrenko, Sergey Vladimirovich.** Born 9 July 1969. Stavropol Council of Veterans "Afghanistan," chairman. Resides in the city of Stavropol.

2. **Bilyayev, Yaroslav Vasilyevich.** Born 19 May 1941. Stavropol Kray Union of Reserve Officers Rubezh, chairman. Resides in the city of Stavropol.

3. **Fedosov, Petr Stefanovich.** Born 8 February 1937. Kray administration, head of Section on Questions of Cossack Brotherhood. Resides in the city of Stavropol.

Khabarovsk Kray

1. **Vashchishin, Sergey Andreyevich.** Born 1 October 1948. AO Zhelezobeton 1, general director. Resides in the city of Khabarovsk.

2. **Sosida, Aleksandr Vasilyevich.** Born 20 July 1956. Kray Theatre of the Young Viewer, director. Resides in the city of Khabarovsk.

Amur Oblast

1. **Vinogradov, Boris Alekseyevich.** Born 30 November 1948. Amur State University, rector. Resides in the city of Blagoveshchensk.

2. **Ponosova, Svetlana Ivanovna.** Born 1 October 1940. Organ of local self-government, city of Belogorsk, chief. Resides in the city of Belogorsk, Amur Oblast.

Arkhangelsk Oblast

1. **Shiryayev, Viktor Alekseyevich.** Born 22 August 1949. Administration of Justice, Arkhangelsk Oblast administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Arkhangelsk.

2. **Brovkho, Igor Anatolyevich.** Born 11 October 1961. Executive committee of the Arkhangelsk regional organization of VOPD [All-Russia Sociopolitical Movement] Russia Is Our Home, director. Resides in the city of Arkhangelsk.

3. **Shulgin, Sergey Nikolayevich.** Born 14 January 1956. State Duma of the RF [Russian Federation] Federal Assembly, deputy. Resides in Moscow.

Astrakhan Oblast

1. **Saushin, Aleksandr Zakharovich.** Born 20 April 1949. Branch enterprise of the RAO [Russian joint-stock

company] Gazprom, deputy general director. Resides in the city of Astrakhan.

2. Blinova, Larisa Nikolayevna. Born 8 February 1955. Astrakhan Technical University, head of humanitarian sciences department. Resides in the city of Astrakhan.

Belgorod Oblast

1. Varganov, Valeriy Vitalyevich. Born 15 September 1962. City Council of Veterans of Afghanistan, chairman. Resides in the city of Belgorod.

2. Miroshimchenko, Ivan Ivanovich. Born 15 August 1937. Council for Economic Cooperation of Border Oblasts of Russia and Ukraine, executive director. Resides in the city of Belgorod.

3. Pravdin, Valeriy Gennadyevich. Born 2 August 1941. AOOT Shebekinskiy Biochemical Plant, general director. Resides in the city of Shebekino, Belgorod Oblast.

Vladimir Oblast

1. Volkov, Gennadiy Konstantinovich. Born 4 April 1947. Administration of Vladimir Oblast, first deputy head of administration. Resides in the city of Vladimir.

2. Firsov, Yevgeniy Yureyevich. Born 5 April 1945. Murom branch of Vladimir Technical University, professor. Resides in the city of Murom, Vladimir Oblast.

3. Kiyazhevskiy, Vladimir Yuryevich. Born 15 July 1958. Newspaper GOLOS KOLCHUGINTSA, assistant editor. Resides in the city of Kolchugino, Vladimir Oblast.

Volgograd Oblast

1. Khomutov, Vasiliy Aleksandrovich. Born 9 November 1947. AO Sarepta, general director. Resides in the city of Volgograd.

2. Polishchuk, Aleksandr Alekseyevich. Born 14 November 1957. Committee on Affairs of Youth of the oblast administration, committee chairman. Resides in the city of Volgograd-15, Volgograd Oblast.

3. Maksimov, Aleksandr Valentinovich. Born 12 June 1964. Volgograd Oblast Duma, chairman of the Permanent Commission on Social Policy and Protection of Citizens. Resides in the city of Volzhskiy, Volgograd Oblast.

4. Goryunov, Vladimir Dmitriyevich. Born 4 September 1949. Rotor soccer club, president. Resides in the city of Volgograd.

Vologda Oblast

1. Ovchenkov, Vyacheslav Ivanovich. Born 21 August 1941. AO Vologdaenergo, general director. Resides in the city of Vologda.

2. Zayets, Anatoliy Fedorovich. Born 24 June 1953. Compressor Station No. 17 of the Severgazprom enterprise, director. Resides in village of Yubeleynyy, Totemskiy Rayon, Vologda Oblast.

Voronezh Oblast

1. Kovalev, Aleksandr Yakovlevich. Born 13 September 1942. Voronezh Oblast administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Voronezh.

2. Parinov, Nikolay Vasilyevich. Born 11 May 1947. State Duma of the RF Federal Assembly, deputy. Resides in village of Novonadezhninskiy, Anninskiy Rayon, Voronezh Oblast.

3. Luntovskiy, Georgiy Ivanovich. Born 12 April 1950. Joint-stock bank Voronezh, general director. Resides in the city of Voronezh.

Ivanovo Oblast

1. Zimin, Sergey Makarovich. Born 1 January 1960. Ivanovo Medical Insurance Society, general director. Resides in the city of Ivanovo.

2. Maslov, Yuriy Aleksandrovich. Born 24 March 1946. Vichuga branch of the commercial investment bank Ramburs, manager. Resides in the city of Vichuga, Ivanovo Oblast.

Irkutsk Oblast

1. Galazin, Grigoriy Ivanovich. Born 15 March 1922. Russian Academy of Sciences, academician, advisor. Resides in the city of Irkutsk.

2. Sergeyev, Mark Davydovich. Born 2 May 1928. Irkutsk Culture Fund, chairman. Resides in the city of Irkutsk.

3. Tatarnikov, Vladimir Germanovich. Born 31 December 1955. Representation of the President of the Russian Federation in Irkutsk Oblast, specialist-expert of the apparatus of the official representative. Resides in the city of Irkutsk.

4. Alekseyev, Gennadiy Alekseyevich. Born 7 October 1945. State Duma of the RF Federal Assembly, deputy. Resides in the city of Irkutsk.

Kaliningrad Oblast

1. Sammarenko, Ivan Andreyevich. Born 20 August 1935. Administration of Nesterovskiy Rayon, Kaliningrad Oblast, head of administration. Resides in Nesterovo, Nesterovskiy Rayon, Kaliningrad Oblast.

2. Grumicheva, Tatyana Pavlovna. Born 18 October 1949. Chief State Medical Doctor for the city of Kaliningrad. Resides in the city of Kaliningrad.

Kaluga Oblast

1. Minakov, Viktor Nikityevich. Born 2 August 1941. Legislative Assembly of Kaluga Oblast, deputy chairman. Resides in the city of Kaluga.

2. Savchenko, Oleg Vitalyevich. Born 15 January 1948. Representation of the President of the Russian Federation in Kaluga Oblast, official representative. Resides in the city of Obninsk, Kaluga Oblast.

Kamchatka Oblast

1. Bobrovnik, Larisa Semenovna. Born 29 September 1948. Administration for Social Protection of the Population, Kamchatka Oblast administration, deputy chief. Resides in the city of Yelizovo, Kamchatka Oblast.

2. Khakimov, Iskander Ibragimovich. Born 8 September 1954. Newspaper VESTI, editor in chief. Resides in the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy.

Kemerovo Oblast

1. Kidyarov, Mikhail Ivanovich. Born 26 March 1949. AO Sibruda, deputy director. Resides in the city of Kemerovo.

2. Batagov, Anatoliy Kharitonovich. Born 1 January 1950. Kemerovskiy Rayon administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Kemerovo.

3. Dostovalov, Viktor Petrovich. Born 8 November 1946. Production-commercial firm Polet, [Flight], director. Resides in the city of Berezovskiy, Kemerovo Oblast.

4. Proskuryakov, Valeriy Mikhaylovich. Born 27 December 1944. Kemerovo Oblast administration, head of Department on Work with Cossack Brotherhood. Resides in the city of Kemerovo.

Kirov Oblast

1. Martyanov, Nikolay Alekseyevich. Born 5 May 1984. AOZT [closed-type joint-stock company] "Business-center 'Kapital'" director. Resides in the city of Kirov.

2. Shaklein, Nikolay Ivanovich. Born 20 December 1943. Kirov Oblast administration, first deputy head of administration. Resides in the city of Kirov.

3. Agafonov, Yegor Andreyevich. Born 10 December 1941. State Duma of the RF Federal Assembly, deputy. Resides in the city of Kirov.

Kostroma Oblast

1. Sokolov, Aleksandr Lvovich. Born 15 January 1927. Kostroma State Agricultural Academy, rector. Resides in the city of Kostroma.

2. Litvinov, Yuriy Alekseyevich. Born 6 June 1953. Representation of President of the Russian Federation in Kostroma Oblast, official representative. Resides in the city of Kostroma.

Kurgansk Oblast

1. Davydov, Nikolay Vasilyevich. Born 11 October 1946. Representation of the President of the Russian Federation in Kurgansk Oblast, official representative. Resides in the city of Kurgan.

2. Mokhnina, Svetlana Georgiyevna. Born 9 March 1947. Association TV-Obzor, State Television-Radio of Kurgansk Oblast, director of association. Resides in the city of Kurgan.

Kursk Oblast

1. Ryzhkov, Fedor Nikolayevich. Born 14 June 1936. Kursk Technical University, rector. Resides in the city of Kursk.

2. Timkov, Aleksandr Sergeyevich. Born 11 February 1965. Rosich-Kursk firm, general director. Resides in the city of Kursk.

Leningrad Oblast

1. Belyakov, Aleksandr Semenovich. Born 20 May 1945. Leningrad Oblast administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

2. Ismagilov, Rashid Fantovich. Born 8 October 1960. State Duma of the RF Federal Assembly, deputy. Resides in the city of Gatchina, Leningrad Oblast.

3. Skvortsov, Vyacheslav Nikolayevich. Born 18 August 1946. Leningrad Oblast Pedagogical Institute, rector. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

4. Zubrilin, Aleksey Borisovich. Born 10 September 1967. AO Nizhnesvirskiy Lespromkhoz, (the city of Lodeynoye Pole), chairman of the board of directors. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

Lipetsk Oblast

1. Smolikova, Olga Alekseyevna. Born 15 November 1950. Administration of Public Health, Lipetsk Oblast

Administration, chief obstetrician-gynecologist. Resides in the city of Lipetsk.

2. Shabalin, Anatoliy Alekseyevich. Born 12 August 1951. Administration of the FSB [Federal Secrurity Service] of Russia on Lipetsk Oblast, chief of analytical subsection. Resides in the city of Lipetsk.

Magadan Oblast

1. Leontyev, Nikolay Georgiyevich. Born 10 November 1951. Military Unit No 70196, commander. Resides in the city of Magadan.

2. Shcherbank, Nina Petrovna. Born 15 July 1944. Magadan Oblast administration, deputy head of administration. Resides in the city of Magadan.

Moscow Oblast

1. Popkovich, Roman Semenovich. Born 26 January 1937. Krasnogorskiy Rayon administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Krasnogorsk, Moscow Oblast.

2. Polyakov, Andrey Aleksandrovich. Born 16 October 1951. Moscow Oblast administration, first deputy head of administration. Resides in Moscow.

3. Galkin, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich. Born 8 October 1935. Main Motorized Armored Tank Administration, Ministry of Defense of Russia, chief. Resides in Moscow.

4. Panchenko, Lyubov Anatolyevna. Born 20 October 1957. Fryazino Territorial Medical Association, deputy chief physician. Resides in the city of Fryazino, Moscow Oblast.

5. Antonova, Lidiya Nikolayevna. Born 15 May 1950. Committee on People's Education, Lyuberetskiy Rayon administration, committee chairman. Resides in the city of Lyubertsy, Moscow Oblast.

6. Pashin, Nikolay Petrovich. Born 26 November 1949. Shchelkovskiy Rayon Administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Shchelkovo, Moscow Oblast.

7. Kasumov, Adil Khalilovich. Born 29 May 1937. AO Mosoblinzhstroy, president. Resides in Moscow.

8. Nikulin, Aleksandr Vasilyevich. Born 3 July 1937. the city of Podolsk administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Podolsk, Moscow Oblast.

9. Zelenetskiy, Aleksandr Stepanovich. Born 12 October 1948. Borets kolkhoz [collective farm], Ramenskiy Rayon, kolkhoz chairman. Resides in village of Rybolovo, Ramenskiy Rayon.

10. Krivtsova, Lyubov Nikolayevna. Born 7 July 1955. Committee on Social Assistance, Klinskiy Rayon administration, committee chairman. Resides in the city of Klin, Moscow Oblast.

Murmansk Oblast

1. Luzin, Gennadiy Pavlovich. Born 4 April 1936. Institute of Economic Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences, director. Resides in the city of Apatity, Murmansk Oblast.

2. Sineva, Yelena Vitalyevna. Born 25 April 1949. Oblast Universal Scientific Library, director. Resides in the city of Murmansk.

Nizhegorodsk Oblast

1. Mitin, Sergey Gerasimovich. Born 14 June 1951. AO Termal, president. Resides in the city of Nizhniy Novgorod.

2. Sedov, Yuriy Dmitriyevich. Born 6 August 1928. AO Upper Volga Main Oil Pipelines, director. Resides in the city of Nizhniy Novgorod.

3. Mikhaylovskaya, Irina Sergeyevna. Born 27 February 1961. Nizhniy Novgorod League of Women Managers and Entrepreneurs, chairman of the board. Resides in the city of Nizhniy Novgorod.

4. Kruglov, Nikolay Konstantinovich. Born 31 January 1950. Ski Club, sports-charity club, trainer. Resides in the city of Nizhniy Novgorod.

Novgorod Oblast

1. Alekseyev, Anatoliy Petrovich. Born 21 March 1949. AOOT Novgorod Plant GARO, chairman of the board. Resides in the city of Novgorod.

2. Ivanova, Valentina Vasilyevna. Born 24 January 1948. Staraya Russa Central Rayon Hospital, chief physician. Resides in the city of Staraya Russa, Novgorod Oblast.

Novosibirsk Oblast

1. Gonzharov, Oleg Pavlovich. Born 13 March 1954. Novosibirsk Oblast administration, chief of press service. Resides in the city of Novosibirsk.

2. Prilepskiy, Boris Vasilyevich. Born 26 October 1935. PO SibBIOFARM, general director. Resides in the city of Berdsk, Novosibirsk Oblast.

3. Nozdryukhin, Viktor Mikhaylovich. Born 28 November 1938. Kolyvanskiy Rayon administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Kolyvan, Novosibirsk Oblast.

Omsk Oblast

1. Tikhomirov, Valeriy Viktorovich. Born 24 August 1944. Omsk State University, rector. Resides in the city of Omsk.

2. Kozhevinkov, Yuriy Andreyevich. Born 11 September 1945. Association of Entrepreneurs of Omsk Oblast, president. Resides in the city of Omsk.

3. Baranov, Gennadiy Vasilyevich. Born 1 February 1943. Tyukalikskiy Rayon administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Tyukalinsk, Omsk Oblast.

Orenburg Oblast

1. Kuvshinov, Aleksandr Ivanovich. Born 13 October 1961. AO Kulminskiy, Kvarkenskiy rayon, chairman. Resides in village of Komintern, Kvarkenskiy Rayon, Orenburg Oblast.

2. Grachev, Sergey Ivanovich. Born 5 February 1953. PO Strela, deputy general director. Resides in the city of Orenburg.

3. Susoyev, Yevgeniy Denisovich. Born 11 November 1952. Tashlinskiy Rayon administration, head of administration. Resides in village of Tashla, Tashlinskiy Rayon, Orenburg Oblast.

Orel Oblast

1. Romanov, Aleksandr Mikhaylovich. Born 20 April 1941. AO Eko, general director. Resides in the city of Orel.

2. Golenkov, Vyacheslav Aleksandrovich. Born 6 January 1948. Orel State Technical University, rector. Resides in the city of Orel.

Penza Oblast

1. Papshev, Sergey Yefimovich. Born 20 May 1946. Pachelmskiy Rayon administration, head of administration. Resides in worker settlement of Pachelma, Penza Oblast.

2. Yeroshin, Gennadiy Leonidovich. Born 3 January 1947. Oblast Children's Hospital, chief physician. Resides in the city of Penza.

Perm Oblast

1. Kuznetsov, Boris Yuryevich. Born 18 February 1935. Perm Oblast administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Perm.

2. Kuznitskiy, Gennadiy Eduardovich. Born 12 September 1949. NPO [scientific production association] imeni S. M. Kirov, general director. Resides in the city of Perm.

3. Fedorov, Valeriy Ivanovich. Born 1 August 1943. UVD [Internal Affairs Administration] of Perm Oblast, chief. Resides in the city of Perm.

4. Cherkasov, Vladimir Aristrakhovich. Born 30 January 1939. Perm Medical Academy, rector. Resides in the city of Perm.

Pskov Oblast

1 Petrova, Yelena Vasilyevna. Born 25 January 1945. Pskov Oblast Family Center, director. Resides in the city of Pskov.

2. Likhosherstov, Vladimir Fedorovich. Born 23 July 1949. TOO [Limited Partnership] Avtodorservis, the city of Pskov, general director. Resides in the city of Pskov.

Rostov Oblast

1. Shapovalov, Sergey Aleksandrovich. Born 19 June 1951. State Duma of the RF Federal Assembly, deputy. Resides in the city of Rostov-on-Don.

2. Linnik, Vitaliy Viktorovich. Born 30 April 1949. Department of Social Protection of the Population, Rostov Oblast administration, director. Resides in the city of Rostov-on-Don.

3. Bova, Ivan Filippovich. Born 4 August 1931. Aksay agroindustrial concern, general director. Resides in the city of Rostov-on-Don.

4. Yermolenko, Vitaliy Petrovich. Born 14 January 1942. NPO Don, general director. Resides in the village of Rassvet, Aleksayskiy Rayon, Rostov Oblast.

5. Vodolatskiy, Viktor Petrovich. Born 19 August 1957. Administration of the city of Azov, first deputy head of administration. Resides in the city of Azov, Rostov Oblast.

6. Umanskiy, Yakov Lvovich. Born 15 April 1941. Executive committee of the regional section of the VOPD Russia Is Our Home, executive committee director. Resides in the city of Rostov-on-Don.

Ryazan Oblast

1. Khitrov, Boris Alekseyevich. Born 9 May 1955. Commercial bank Pereslavl, chairman of the board. Resides in the city of Ryazan.

2. Shadskiy, Valeriy Nikolayevich. Born 22 February 1949. Ryazan Puppet Theatre, chief director. Resides in the city of Ryazan.

Samara Oblast

1. Sharapov, Vladimir Fedorovich. Born 16 March 1944. AOOT Samarskiy Diagnostic Center, executive director. Resides in the city of Samara.

2. Yurin, Sergey Viktorovich. Born 24 March 1958. Regional section of VOPD Russia Is Our Home, executive secretary. Resides in the city of Samara.

3. Voronina, Mariya Sergeyevna. Born 10 December 1950. Mariya art salon, director. Resides in the city of Samara.

4. Morozov, Sergey Pavlovych. Born 3 August 1948. AOOT Torgtrans, general director. Resides in the city of Samara.

5. Legostayev, Aleksandr Vasilyevich. Born 15 July 1946. Privolzhskiy Rayon administration, head of administration. Resides in the village of Privolzhye, Privolzhskiy Rayon, Samara Oblast.

Saratov Oblast

1. Paradiz, Aleksandr Lazarevich. Born 1 January 1949. Saratov Oblast administration, deputy head of administration. Resides in the city of Saratov.

Sakhalin Oblast

1. Kamornik, Viktor Nikolayevich. Born 2 May 1948. Representation of the President of the Russian Federation in Sakhalin Oblast, official representative. Resides in the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

2. Mishchenko, Sergey Pavlovich. Born 14 July 1944. Executive committee of the council of the Sakhalin regional section of VOPD Russia Is Our Home, executive committee chairman. Resides in the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

Sverdlovsk Oblast

1. Strakhov, Aleksey Leonidovich. Born 25 October 1942. Council of the regional organization of VOPD Russia Is Our Home, council chairman. Resides in the city of Yekaterinburg.

2. Yazev, Valeriy Afanasyevich. Born 29 October 1949. Yava corporation, president. Resides in the city of Yekaterinburg.

3. Korotkovskiy, German Eduardovich. Born 24 June 1934. Territorial intersectoral association Mayak, vice-president. Resides in the city of Yekaterinburg.

4. Dadeko, Vladimir Ilyich. Born 15 June 1954. Konkord corporation, president. Resides in the city of Yekaterinburg.

5. Surin, Vladimir Mikhaylovich. Born 22 November 1945. Metrostroy administration, general director. Resides in the city of Yekaterinburg.

6. Kholodova, Lyudmila Petrovna. Born 1 February 1942. Urals State Architectural Academy, head of chair. Resides in the city of Yekaterinburg.

7. Nekrasov, Leonid Vasilyevich. Born 28 September 1958. State Duma of the RF Federal Assembly, deputy. Resides in the city of Yekaterinburg.

Smolensk Oblast

1. Lazarenkov, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich. Born 1 January 1947. AO Smolenskiy Flax Combine, deputy general director. Resides in the city of Smolensk.

2. Ryazanov, Andrey Grigoryevich. Born 20 January 1960. Smolensk Oblast Duma, deputy chairman of Commission on Legality and Jurisprudence. Resides in the city of Smolensk.

Tambov Oblast

1. Dubyshkin, Anatoliy Grigoryevich. Born 25 December 1947. UVD of Tambov Oblast, chief of section on combatting economic crime. Resides in the city of Tambov.

2. Druzhinin, Anatoliy Aleksandrovich. Born 1 June 1931. Administration of Federal Postal Communications of Tambov Oblast, chief of administration. Resides in the city of Tambov.

Tver Oblast

1. Tyagunov, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich. Born 31 May 1940. AO Tveragrostroy, chairman. Resides in the city of Tver.

2. Avdoshina, Nadezhda Vladimirovna. Born 14 February 1950. Secondary school, city of Staritsa, director. Resides in the city of Staritsa, Tver Oblast.

3. Kiselev, Oleg Aleksandrovich. Born 31 March 1940. Administration of the city of Vyshniy Volochek, head of administration. Resides in the city of Vyshniy Volochek, Tver Oblast.

Tomsk Oblast

1. Kress, Viktor Melkhiorovich. Born 16 November 1948. Tomsk Oblast administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Tomsk.

2. Shamin, Grigoriy Andreyevich. Born 3 October 1955. Tomsk Oblast Administration of Labor and Public Employment, chief. Resides in the city of Seversk, Tomsk Oblast.

Tula Oblast

1. Sidorov, Yevgeniy Yurevich. Born 11 February 1938. Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, minister. Resides in the city of Moscow.

2. Kuznetsov, Vyacheslav Yuryevich. Born 27 December 1958. TIKO firm, general director. Resides in the city of Tula.

3. Buzovkin, Oleg Alekseyevich. Born 3 June 1948. Oblast Society of Invalids, chairman. Resides in the city of Tula.

Tyumen Oblast

1. Kutsev, Gennadiy Filippovich. Born 17 September 1937. Tyumen State University, rector. Resides in the city of Tyumen.

2. Kayumov, Akhtyam Khamitovich. Born 1 August 1938. AO Tyumen Trade House, president. Resides in the city of Tyumen.

3. Selivanov, Vladimir Yevgenyevich. Born 28 October 1957. Tyumen regional section of the Russian Sociopolitical Center, director. Resides in the city of Tyumen.

Ulyanovsk Oblast

1. Chernov, Sergey Alekseyevich. Born 25 June 1953. AO Aviastar, chief mechanic. Resides in the city of Ulyanovsk.

2. Makhlova, Vera Alekseyevna. Born 12 December 1946. Oblast House of Childhood, director. Resides in the city of Ulyanovsk.

Chelyabinsk Oblast

1. Altynbayev, Zhakslyk Kuantayevich. Born 7 September 1945. Chelyabinsk Oblast administration, first deputy head of administration. Resides in the city of Chelyabinsk.

2. Vyatkin, German Platonovich. Born 1 May 1935. Chelyabinsk State Technical University, rector. Resides in the city of Chelyabinsk.

3. Klyuyev, Fedor Nikolayevich. Born 15 September 1943. Chelyabinsk Oblast Duma, first deputy chairman. Resides in the city of Chelyabinsk.

4. Skvortsov, Vyacheslav Nikolayevich. Born 29 January 1947. Chelyabinsk Oblast Duma, chairman. Resides in the city of Chelyabinsk.

5. Zhezhera, Anatoliy Ivanovich. Born 8 October 1948. Chelyabinsk Higher Military Automotive Engineering School, director. Resides in the city of Chelyabinsk.

Chita Oblast

1. Gorlachev, Valeriy Pavlovich. Born 26 October 1940. Chita Pedagogical Institute, rector. Resides in the city of Chita.

2. Mlachnev, Nikolay Zakharovich. Born 8 August 1938. PO Chitaavtodor, chief. Resides in the city of Chita.

Yaroslavl Oblast

1. Goryunov, Yevgeniy Vladimirovich. Born 1 January 1963. Medical insurance company ASTER, director. Resides in the city of Yaroslavl.

2. Danilevich, Arkadiy Pavlovich. Born 12 January 1942. PVO [antiaircraft defense] troop detachment, commander. Resides in the city of Yaroslavl.

Jewish Autonomous Oblast

1. Ryamskiy, Feliks Nikolayevich. Born 27 July 1938. Institute of Regional Problems, director. Resides in the city of Birobidzhan.

2. Khoreva, Nadezhda Mikhaylovna. Born 1 January 1952. Nadezhda sewing firm, general director. Resides in the city of Birobidzhan.

City of Moscow

1. Resin, Vladimir Iosifovich. Born 21 February 1936. City of Moscow Government, first deputy premier. Resides in Moscow.

2. Shokhin, Aleksandr Nikolayevich. Born 25 December 1951. State Duma of the RF Federal Assembly, deputy. Resides in Moscow.

3. Grebennikov, Valeriy Vasilyevich. Born 14 October 1946. Executive committee of the Council of the VOPD Russia Is Our Home, deputy director. Resides in Moscow.

4. Zamkin, Yevgeniy Pavlovich. Born 26 February 1947. Moscow City Duma, deputy. Resides in Moscow.

5. Sister, Vladimir Grigoryevich. Born 10 February 1946. Prefecture of the Northeastern Administrative District, prefect. Resides in Moscow.

City of St. Petersburg

1. Verbitskaya, Lyudmila Alekseyevna. Born 17 June 1936. St. Petersburg State University, rector. Resides in St. Petersburg.

2. Shevchenko, Yuriy Leonidovich. Born 7 April 1944. Military-Medical Academy, chief. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

3. Aleksandrov, Aleksey Ivanovich. Born 3 May 1952. State Duma of the RF Federal Assembly, deputy. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

4. Narusova, Lyudmila Borisovna. Born 2 May 1951. St. Petersburg Academy of Culture, docent. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

5. Litvinenko, Vladimir Stefanovich. Born 14 August 1955. St. Petersburg State Mining Institute, rector. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

6. Pyekha, Edita Stanislavovna. Born 31 July 1937. St. Petersburg Concern Organization, actress. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

7. Boyarskiy, Mikhail Sergeyevich. Born 26 December 1949. Benefis theatre, artistic director. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

8. Yagya, Vatanyar Savdovich. Born 16 September 1938. Legislative Assembly of St. Petersburg, deputy. Resides in the city of St. Petersburg.

Aga Buryat Autonomous Okrug

1. Tsedashiyev, Gurodarma Tsedashivich. Born 5 November 1948. Aga Buryat Autonomous Okrug Administration, head of administration. Resides in worker's settlement Aginskoye, Aga Buryat Autonomous Okrug.

2. Strelnikov, Vladimir Gavrilovich. Born 12 October 1941. Aginskiy Pedagogical College, instructor. Resides in worker's settlement of Aginskoye, Aga-Buryat Autonomous Okrug.

Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug

1. Savelyev, Gennadiy Petrovich. Born 11 November 1945. Komi- Permyak Autonomous Okrug administration, first deputy head of administration. Resides in the city of Kudymkar, Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug.

2. Vankov, Valeriy Antonovich. Born 19 February 1946. AO Myasokombinat Kudymkarskiy, general director. Resides in the city of Kudymkar, Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug.

Koryak Autonomous Okrug

1. Verenitskiy, Valeriy Nikolayevich. Born 11 November 1946. Legal consultation, director. Resides in village of Ossora, Koryak Autonomous Okrug.

2. Mizimin, Vladimir Nikolayevich. Born 25 November 1954. Penzhinskiy sovkhoz [state farm], director. Resides in the village of Slavutnoye, Penzhinskiy Rayon, Koryak Autonomous Okrug.

Nenets Autonomous Okrug

1. Luzhkov, Nikolay Vasilyevich. Born 25 September 1951. AO Pechorskiy les, general director. Resides in the city of Naryan- Mar, Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

2. Vityazev, Vasiliy Mikhaylovich. Born 20 February 1964, TOO [limited partnership] Sula, director. Resides in the city of Naryan-Mar, Nenet Autonomous Okrug.

Taymyr (Dolgano-Nenets) Autonomous Okrug

1. Barkov, Vladimir Vasilyevich. Born 5 November 1945. Taymyr branch of the Krasnoyarsk department of the Russian Transport Inspectorate, chief. Resides in the city of Dudinka, Taymyr (Dolgano-Nenets) Autonomous Okrug.

2. Zolin, Aleksandr Olegovich. Born 26 September 1953. Stock center Intek, director. Resides in the city of Dudinka, Taymyr (Dolgano-Nenets) Autonomous Okrug.

Ust-Ordynsk Buryat Autonomous Okrug

1. Khutanov, Leonid Aleksandrovich. Born 1 January 1947. Duma of the Ust-Ordynsk Buryat Autonomous Okrug, chairman. Resides in village of Ust-Ordynskiy.

2. Kurmanevich, Vladimir Vasilyevich. Born 7 November 1942. AO Primorsk, director. Resides in village of Primorsk, Osinskiy Rayon, Irkutsk Oblast.

Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug

1. Korepanov, Gennadiy Semenovich. Born 26 December 1947. Okrug administration, deputy head of administration. Resides in the city of Khanty-Mansiysk.

2. Romanenko, Vasiliy Vasilyevich. Born 2 October 1943. PO Obneftegazgeologiya, deputy general director. Resides in the city of Surgut, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug.

Chukotsk Autonomous Okrug

1. Nazarov, Aleksandr Viktorovich. Born 24 January 1951. Chukotsk Autonomous Okrug administration, head of administration. Resides in the city of Anadyr, Chukotsk Autonomous Okrug.

2. Belchenko, Yevgeniy Leonidovich. Born 5 June 1954. AO Bilibinskiy GOK, general director. Resides in the city of Bilibino, Chukotsk Autonomous Okrug.

Evenki Autonomous Okrug

1. Yakimov, Anatoliy Mikhaylovich. Born 5 March 1947. Evenki Autonomous Okrug administration, head of administration. Resides in the village of Tura, Evenki Autonomous Okrug.

2. Shcherbachev, Albert Anatolyevich. Born 22 April 1946. Mobile mechanized columa-607, commander. Resides in the village of Tura, Evenki Autonomous Okrug.

Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug

1. Ponomarev, Mikhail Nikolayevich. Born 1 January 1954. Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug administration, deputy head of administration. Resides in the city of Salekhard, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

2. Aretyev, Aleksey Vladimirovich. Born 11 February 1964. Administration of Informational-Analytical Studies and Interregional Relations of the okrug administration, chief. Resides in the city of Salekhard, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug.

[Signed] Chairman of the Congress L.B. Vid
Secretary of the Congress I.D. Golovin

Gromov Announces Grachev Plans To Run for Duma Seat

LD0610185195 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1800 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with a Moscow Echo radio station correspondent, General Boris Gromov announced that Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev plans to stand personally in the elections to the State Duma.

According to Gromov's information, Grachev will stand in the single-seat constituency of Saratov.

Official Welcomes Grachev Decision

LD0610191495 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1815 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] "I approve of such an action on General Grachev's part," Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the Duma Defense Committee, told Moscow Echo radio station, commenting on Pavel Grachev's intention to stand for the State Duma.

"I would help him to get elected to the State Duma," Yushenkov underlined, "because it would mean he would not be defense minister. Then the entire armed forces and the country as a whole would heave a sigh of relief. One can only welcome Grachev's move here."

'Squabbles' Blamed for Loss of LPDR Signature Sheets

MM0610120895 Moscow TRUD-7 in Russian 6-12 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Grigoryev: "Unlucky LDPR"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yoshkar-Ola — An ordinary working day began with a most unpleasant "surprise" for V. Igitov, assistant to a State Duma deputy, coordinator of the Mari organization of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] and authorized representative of the electoral association: The sheets of signatures supporting the federal list of the LDPR and the candidate deputy from its Mari section — 750 sheets — had disappeared from the party's safe.

Since the safe was not broken into but opened with a key, it can be assumed that references to a "safe-cracker" and a hostile plot by one of Vladimir Volfovich's antagonists are inappropriate here. This is most likely a symptom of squabbles within the party. However, the injured party is convinced that this provocation will not cast a shadow on the election campaign — with the help of the party aktiv, volunteers, and sympathizers, the documents will be duplicated and sent to Moscow on time.

Regional Activities

Kozyrev To Run for Duma Seat in Murmansk

MK1010064995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 7 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Leonid Velekhov: "Minister Kozyrev Makes Choice But Hopes. Candidate Kozyrev Will Run Against Lyubov Zhirinovskaya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Coming yesterday morning to Electoral Commission Number 116 of the Murmansk Electoral District, Andrey Kozyrev finally officially consented to run as an independent candidate for the State Duma and handed in lists with the requisite 3,900 signatures of voters who support him. As is known, as recently as the day before, the minister answered all questions on whether he would run by saying that he had not yet made up his mind. On Friday morning [6 October], Mr. Kozyrev told your SEGODNYA correspondent at the Murmansk Electoral Commission that a meeting with a support group and campaign managers on Thursday evening finally swayed him.

To SEGODNYA's question on whether his consent to run indicates a readiness to resign as foreign minister if elected deputy in line with the electoral law, Andrey

Kozyrev said that he "still has to figure out all the details of the electoral law and make a decision by the time of the elections themselves." "Maybe," he explained, "there will be some clarifications from the Electoral Commission as the elections draw nearer, but the question is of course difficult for me, because I like both jobs."

Still, before Andrey Kozyrev visited the Electoral Commission, your SEGODNYA correspondent discovered among the list of names of the minister's rival candidates in Murmansk Electoral District No. 116 that of Lyubov Zhirinovskaya, born in 1942 and head of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] central apparatus. Members of the Electoral Commission told your SEGODNYA correspondent that, during his recent visit to Murmansk, the LDPR head even intended at first to come forward as a candidate, but then decided "not to overreach himself" and threw into the fray with his long-standing foe Kozyrev, in his phrase, "the dearest of all I have — my own sister." True, his sister's patronymic is Andreyevna rather than Volfovna [Zhirinovskiy's patronymic is Volfovich].

Candidate Kozyrev, who only learned on the spot that he would be opposed by the Zhirinovskiy clan, reacted cheerfully to the prospect of competing against Lyubov Zhirinovskaya: "Now we see party workers also being made use of."

Murmansk 'Russia Is Our Home' Names Candidates

964F0030A Murmansk POLYARNAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Aug 95 p 1

[Article by V. Sidorin, under the "Elections '95" rubric: "'Our Home' Names Its Own...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Murmansk regional department of the All-Russian "Our Home" movement named several candidates for a State Duma deputy post. Moreover, it was the first to do this in our oblast, which in itself is not surprising—the administrative apparatus was not dawdling: It even gathered supporters for the movement this summer, and it conducted consultations and meetings.

The candidacies of the aspirants were announced last Wednesday by Ye. Komarov, the oblast governor, at a meeting of the council of regional departments of the NDR [Russia Is Our Home]. The voting for all of the candidates was unanimous. The movement nominated G. Luzin, director of the Institute of Economic Problems of the KNTs [Kola Science Center], and I. Sinev, director of the oblast science library, for inclusion on the general federal list. L. Pobedinskaya, oblast administration office manager, was nominated in the Monchegorsk Electoral District, and A. Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs, in the Murmansk Electoral District.

There are no fundamental problems with the nomination of candidates of the NDR movement for inclusion in the general federal list. But then, in the single mandate districts.... Lyudmila Vasilyevna Pobedinskaya has still "not cooled down from heated debates" in the Federation Council—she is a deputy of this organ. Nevertheless, she has decided to reorient herself on the State Duma, explaining her desire by the fact that her position is not suitable for the Federation Council, and that people of appropriate rank should be in it; i.e., the first persons of the regions. But following her logic, one can in the same way also be disappointed in work in the State Duma....

Nor is everything clear with Andrey Vladimirovich Kozyrev. According to the Constitution, "A deputy of the State Duma of the first convocation can simultaneously be a member of the government of the Russian Federation." But now—it is the second convocation, and Kozyrev is a member of the government. So it becomes necessary to guess what the minister desires: Work in the Duma on a permanent (staff) basis, or, for example, to combine jobs in some way? However, no matter what he would wish, it will be fulfilled (judging by past elections in our oblast, he has no equal in popularity).

However, time is passing, and the situation is changing. This was graphically demonstrated by the elections for the governor of Sverdlovsk Oblast, where A. Strakhov, the leader of the regional Russia Is Our Home movement, suffered a decisive defeat by E. Rossel. We note at the same time that in the number of potential voters, Sverdlovsk Oblast is bigger than Murmansk Oblast by a factor of 4.3; i.e., it is a very sizable industrial region that can be a tuning fork for "tuning" the public opinion of the country.

If similar attitudes predominate in our oblast, then one does not see success for candidates of the "ruling party in power." But in reality this is unlikely to occur. Our oblast differs in pro-president and pro-government views. We like eminent statesmen, and that is all there is to it. Although it is more accurate to say—we liked....

Agarians Submit Signatures for Federal Slate Candidates

964F0010D Nalchik GAZETA YUGA in Russian 29 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Zarema Khadartseva, Sergey Pavlov: "The Agrarians Are Betting on Amirkhan Kushkhov, Viktor Punarzhi, and Kharun Mammayev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty thousand signatures collected by the agrarians of the Kabardino-Balkar

Republic for registration of their candidates for deputy on the federal slate have been sent to the Central Election Commission. Top of the regional slate (Adygea, Ingushetia, Kalmykia, and Kabardino-Balkaria) is Amirkhan Kushkhov, minister of agriculture and food of the Kabardino-Balkar Republic. He and also Viktor Punarzhi, director of the Stepnoy Sovkhoz, and Kharun Mammayev, chairman of the Suken-Su Kolkhoz, are on the federal slate.

The agrarians have decided not to nominate a candidate for single-member Electoral District No. 13. As Vladimir Kaskulov, deputy chairman of the local branch of the Agrarian Party, announced, the agrarians will support the candidacy of Vladimir Sokhov.

Justice Ministry Cancels LDPR Registration

964F0010B Nalchik GAZETA YUGA in Russian 29 Sep 95 p 1

[Zalina Atalikova report: "Zhirinovskiy's Falcons Have Started Out With a Scandal: The Kabardino-Balkar Republic Ministry of Justice Has Canceled the LDPR's Registration Certificate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 13 September the Kabardino-Balkar Republic Ministry of Justice issued the republic organization of the Liberal Democratic Party Registration Certificate 195 (GAZETA YUGA No. 37). On 21 September this certificate was canceled.

As Khabas Mashukov, a member of the ministry staff, told our GAZETA YUGA correspondent, doubts arose following the registration of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia—Liberalno-demokraticheskaya partiya Rossii] as to the authenticity of some of the documents with which the Ministry of Justice had been furnished: "I asked for the minutes of the meeting of the rayon organizations, and they were delivered within two hours. Even with the best of efforts, it is impossible to get around five rayons in so short a time. There is reason to suspect document forgery. And this is a criminally punishable offense. We have forwarded the material to the republic procuracy for an investigation."

Piquancy is added to the situation by the fact that Aleksandr Bodrov, candidate for deputy of the LDPR, is senior investigator for particularly important cases at the republic procuracy.

CPRF Press Conference Launches St. Petersburg Campaign

MM0610134895 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by S. Ivanov under the "Election Campaign in Progress" rubric: "CPRF Is Party of Realists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Monday 2 October the "Communist Party of the Russian Federation" [CPRF] electoral bloc held a presentation for journalists in St. Petersburg. It was the city's first official event of this kind — as is known, the Communists have overtaken their rivals in collecting signatures.

Taking part in the press conference were candidate State Duma deputies from the Neva-Baltic regional group Yu. Sevenard and Ye. Krasnitskiy, deputies in the current parliament; Yu. Belov, secretary of Leningrad CPRF Oblast Party Committee; and the following people who have for the first time entered the contest for seats in the supreme legislative organ: V. Tokarev, senior lecturer at the polytechnical university; S. Sokol, director of a joint-stock company; and Yu. Medvedchikov, worker from Tikhvin and Afghan War veteran.

Interest in the meeting was heightened by the fact that it took place against the background of the Communists' unprecedented success in the Volgograd elections.

The shock from the outcome of the "Battle of Stalingrad" was so great that a presentiment of the Communists' impending return to power could be sensed in journalists' questions. Those attending asked mainly about the party's plans to rebuild the country after the elections, as if victory in them had already been predetermined. The journalists took the future of foreign investment especially close to their hearts. State Duma Deputy Sevenard, who heads the regional list of CPRF candidates, tried to dispel their fears: "Western partners view our country as a tasty appendage to their system. But foreign investors can sleep peacefully — we will not permit Russian land and our enterprises to be transferred to them according to the prescriptions of A. Chubays, but at the same time we do not intend to refuse foreign credits. At the 6-7 percent annual interest standard in Europe and invariably provided that the state retains the controlling block."

For some reason Petersburg journalists always associate Sevenard with the post of mayor of the city, although the current mayor is still alive and well. At this meeting they also did not fail to inquire about Sevenard's first steps in this post. "Not to fight, as I would have said previously, but to eliminate crime," came the reply. The Communists are keeping their word. The preparation of a law on fighting organized crime was their State Duma faction's contribution. "We are a party of realists," Yu. Belov said. "That is why we are not setting ourselves the aim of monopolizing power in the country, repeating the CPSU's experience. Russian Communists can bank on success only in an alliance with patriotic forces and everybody who realizes that the following question is now being decided: Will Russia's autonomous historical existence continue or will it become part of European history?"

Right now the Leningrad party organization is working with a broad spectrum of political forces such as the Agrarian Party, N. Ryzhkov's "Power to the People" association, and trade unions. So as not to create obstacles for trade unions, Communists did not even put up candidates in four of the region's eight single-seat districts. On individual questions such as, for example, the monitoring of voting results, the CPRF's Leningrad branch is prepared to agree with any political forces with one exception. Communists want nothing to do with the "Russia Is Our Home" association.

Election Guidelines

Ryabov Answers Questions on Election Procedures

MM0610145895 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts under the "Elections-95: News From the Central Electoral Commission" rubric: "Nikolay Ryabov Warns: Laxity Impermissible in Election Struggle. This Was Stated During a Meeting With Leaders and Agents of Electoral Blocs, Movements, and Political Parties"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Forty-four of the 73 participants in the election race who are registered as of today sent people to the meeting at the Central Electoral Commission [CEC]. The remaining blocs, movements, and parties are apparently clear about everything and have no questions for the CEC.

Nonetheless, the CEC considers the meeting very important: Explanations were given concerning work with the election documents of electoral blocs and movements. In brief, these explanations amounted to the following. A clear legislative base for the elections has been created today, and the CEC intends to conduct the election campaign strictly according to these rules. In other words, no liberalism or leniency. Offenders will be severely punished. In most cases they can expect a rather long investigation, which in effect means being out of the election struggle. This approach can be illustrated by the possible sanctions in connection with the acceptance of the lists of voters' signatures. If the CEC suspects something is wrong with our signatures, it will ask the party's or movement's organizing committee to provide explanations and put the lists in order. The second possibility is to send the entire package of signatures to the inquiry organs. So it could turn out that because of a single, shall we say, "hitch," several hundred or even thousand signatures might simply not get counted toward the total of a particular party or independent candidate.

Questions also arose concerning participation in the elections by refugees and forced migrants, as well as our compatriots living in the far and near abroad. These problems, CEC Chairman Nikolay Ryabov stressed, are well known and we are doing everything necessary to create in time for polling day the most convenient conditions for the voters to express their will freely.

In general the questions raised at the meeting showed, in my view, the poor knowledge of electoral legislation among participants in the election campaign. For instance, a representative of the Beer Lovers' party asked whether he could enlist the support of a voter at a beer stall whose permanent domicile is in Siberia but who is currently on vacation in Sochi? The answer was roughly this: The main thing is that the beer stall is on the territory of the Russian Federation. What kind of a parliament are we going to elect if the other parties and movements also start collecting signatures at places that are so popular with our people?

Ryabov Says 20 Candidates Average for Each Duma Seat

LD0610130895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1150 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] OMSK, Oct 6 (INTERFAX) — The number of candidates averages over 20 for every State Duma seat, Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Election Comission, told a conference of regional and local election commissions in Omsk, Western Siberia, Friday.

Ryabov said that the stage of forming regional and local election commissions is over.

The commissions will be independent because they are formed jointly by the regional executive and legislative branches and because most of their chairmen are on the state payroll.

The constituency commissions which will deal directly with the 105 million voters have a central role to play. They are to be formed before October 17, Ryabov believes.

Ryabov said that the other tasks of election commissions include making lists of voters and enabling invalids and young people to vote. Analysis of earlier election results shows that these groups are "passive and indifferent."

Forecasts & Commentary

Chernomyrdin Fears Loss of Reforms After Elections

LD0710201595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2007 GMT 7 Oct 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov and Nikolay Setunskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] OTTAWA, October 7 (ITAR-TASS) — The major event in Russia now is the preparation for the December 17 parliamentary elections, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at a meeting with personnel of Russian missions shortly before leaving Ottawa.

He said the run-up for the new State Duma, or the lower house, involves some 60 parties and blocs, the number Russia never knew.

Russia's pre-election situation is serious because many forces are in drive for power to reverse Russia's democratic reforms and won't conceal this, Chernomyrdin said.

He said he did not expect all those forces to succeed in the election, but the seriousness of the threat should not be underestimated.

Chernomyrdin admitted that the Russian Communist Party led by Gennadiy Zyuganov could have a solid backing, "mostly from people of retirement age, that is, of those layers of the population which have now found themselves in the most complex situation, for so far we have been able to do little for our people in social terms," Chernomyrdin said.

Chernomyrdin said, however, that Russia's reforms are unlikely to end up in the hands of those willing to scrap them.

He complained that the democratic camp is weakened by internal controversies relating mostly to a lack of consensus among liberal leaders rather than their platforms.

This was the reason for setting up the centre right "Our Home is Russia" bloc and the centre left bloc to led by State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin, Chernomyrdin said.

Chernomyrdin said Rybkin's bloc was in trouble, admitting that things were not rosy for his own bloc, too.

He said, however, that "Our Home is Russia" has a network of branches across Russia and expects a good showing in the elections ahead.

The bloc's stake is on people of common sense, who understand what is happening in Russia and in the world, Chernomyrdin said, adding that his bloc might transform into a party in longer term.

"In principle, Russia will be experiencing the most serious, most responsible moment in December... Certainly, a still more responsible moment will be the presidential election next year," Chernomyrdin said.

Belyayev Expects NDR To Win 8-12 Percent of Vote

MK0610150795 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 30 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Natalya Arkhangelskaya under the "Russian Party Life" rubric: "'Our Home' Has Prepared Many Surprises for the Voter"]

[FBIS Translated Text] State Property Committee [GKI] Chairman Sergey Belyayev, speaking at the House of Journalists yesterday, ventured to take what he himself described as a risky step, starting an open dialogue with the press about the NDR ["Russian Is Our Home"] electoral campaign. Belyayev's first news conference in his capacity as chief of the movement's electoral staff marked the start of a series of meetings during which he will have to resolve the difficult propaganda problem of creating an attractive image for the authorities.

Acknowledging a shortage of people's love, the GKI chairman complained of the bitter fate of the government, which serves as a target for all kinds of political forces that are currently striving to seize power precisely because all the "dirty" work has already been done. In Belyayev's view, an improvement in the economic situation is just around the corner, and this prospect only embitters the competitors, who understand that they need to make haste. He resolutely brushed aside all charges that the government hierarchy is being used to achieve electoral ends, admitting that administrative methods of influencing voters are ineffective.

The government does not intend to make populist decisions either, realizing their destructive impact on the current economic structure. But a program to help cheated investors is already in the pipeline: its first details will be made known in a week. On the whole, the movement will work with voters as all others do, the GKI chairman assured journalists, using leaflets, posters, and televised addresses. But many surprises have been prepared, he promised. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY's information, the NDR in fact plans to unleash a powerful torrent of electoral propaganda on the voters, the scale of which can be seen from the following detail. If the movement's electoral staff fully realizes its plans to print leaflets, posters, booklets, and so forth, experts estimate that there will be no paper left in the country. Large-scale goals require corresponding funds, but Belyayev was very laconic with regard to the NDR's financial capabilities: the movement has officially announced the beginning of its fundraising campaign, there are lots of those wishing to support it, the list of official sponsors will be published within the dates provided for by law — and a report on how the money was spent, after the elections.

As for the ongoing collection of signatures, Belyayev said that lots of signatures have already been gathered and that the collection effort continues, but the NDR does not intend to rush to submit them to the Central Electoral Commission [CEC]. This suggests that the process is not proceeding very smoothly and that the requisite 200,000 have not yet been collected. Earlier, electoral staff spokesmen asserted that there would be just as many signatures as required by law and that they would be immediately submitted to the CEC, because the NDR is not going to compete with anyone so as not to annoy its rivals once too often. In addition, every contestant of the elections is interested in submitting the signatures as soon as possible because only after that can campaigning be legally started. By some accounts, the army has already been instructed to vote for the NDR (and, hence, to collect signatures in support of it). A similar decision is to be made by the Ministry of Internal Affairs one of these days.

When asked whether minister-candidates for parliament will take a leave for the period of the elections, Sergey Belyayev said that he personally has been on leave since early August, while his colleagues who are included on party lists will do so later. At the same time, he disagrees with Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, who is calling for a cabinet made up exclusively of professionals. The government is by definition a political body, Belyayev stressed, noting with a bit of venom that Shakhray himself is clearly not rushing to resign. In addition, as the GKI chairman said, in the near future the cabinet will be reformed under the influence of two factors — the fact that a reshuffle has long been overdue, and the corruption charges leveled against a number of ministers. The process will be steered by the president and the prime minister. With respect to relations between the state's two top officials, Sergey Belyayev recalled that the center-right bloc was set up with Yeltsin's knowledge and consent and that Chernomyrdin was nominated as the head of government by the president himself. The threat of a parliamentary no-confidence vote in the government, which is once again in the air, does not frighten the inhabitants of the White House. Belyayev is certain that there will be no such vote, since the deputies are already submerged in the own electoral business. But even if the vote takes place, this would only play into Chernomyrdin's hand. Indeed, the Duma is currently unlikely to turn the premier into its victim, thus increasing his electoral chances.

When asked how the NDR leaders themselves assess their chances, Sergey Belyayev said evasively that, in his view, no more than one-third of the voters will turn out for the elections, while the maximum of votes that can be garnered is 8-12 percent. He does not expect a resounding victory of the communists and agrarians either, counting on the voters' common sense. As a whole, what he said is fully in line with the forecast made by the president at his latest news conference.

In the Russian capital, however, the NDR's successes will be evidently more modest than anywhere else. It seems that the Moscow mayor has delivered on the pledge he allegedly made that he will give the NDR none of Moscow's 15 single-seat districts. By obstructing the creation of the NDR's regional branch in Moscow until the last moment, he also prevented it from compiling a list of candidates for Moscow. As a result, the NDR has only a regional list of five people in the Russian capital, of whom only one — Aleksandr Shokhin — can be definitely seen as Chernomyrdin's man. He is number two on the list, a place that does not guarantee his election; moreover, the CEC has up until the last moment attempted to push the former deputy prime minister back even further. The other four, headed by Vladimir Resin, chief of the Moscow construction department — are clearly not unfamiliar to the Moscow city head.

Daily Examines Improvement of KRO's Fortunes

MM0610134395 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 5 Oct 95 p 5

[Article by Sergey Blinov: "'Dark Horse' Has Begun To Kick"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Defending the interests of Russian commodity producers in internal and external markets should be one of the tasks of the new government, which will be formed after the elections, one of the leaders of the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO], Sergey Glazyev, stated at a scientific and practical conference in Moscow the other day entitled "The Aims of Russian Politics in the Future: Where the Russian Commodity Producer's and Entrepreneur's Interests Lie." In the opinion of the former minister, the creation of conditions to reanimate production and economic growth is only possible if a tax reform is carried out, with the burden of taxation passing from income made from work, investment activities, and innovations to the graded taxation of property, including natural resources, and types of activities with negative ecological and social effects. It is proposed that the portion of profits channeled into production development, scientific research and development, and the replenishment of working capital should be exempted from tax. This is the tenor of Glazyev's scheme to create conditions for financial and industrial groups to combine their capital and industrial potential and compete with transnational corporations using their own resources.

Glazyev heavily criticized the actions of Anatoliy Chubays, chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property [Goskomimushchestvo], stating that he was attempting to privatize what is left of Goskomimushchestvo and that the main beneficiary of his actions would be foreign capital. But the criticism of the "chief privatizer" seemed only to be a preamble to an unequivocal statement declaring that the KRO had never dropped the question of the government's dismissal from its agenda. However, in spite of his bitter criticism of current policies, Glazyev stated that macroeconomic stabilization was possible in the course of the year and that it is possible to create "points of growth" within the Russian economy over a five-year period.

Such optimism from Sergey Glazyev alone — who is No. 3 on the KRO's federal list — might, perhaps, just appear to be an electoral ploy, were it not for the participants in the conference who cannot be criticized for political altruism [as published] and gullibility. Leonid Abalkin, Chairman of the Association of Russian Banks; Sergey Yegorov, the well-known entrepreneur; Mark Massarskiy; and one of the founding fathers of the Moscow Commodities Exchange, Yuriy Milyukov, unexpectedly appeared at the same table as Glazyev.

It goes without saying that politics pure and simple was one of the topics discussed, but this happened more at the press conference where journalists tried to prise the bloc's electoral plans out of Sergey Glazyev and Konstantin Zatulin. In Glazyev's opinion, the KRO is capable of gaining a relative majority of votes in the election and of forming a government of national confidence. According to Glazyev, the KRO already has sufficient votes to register but it wants to "make sure." The bloc is ready to cooperate in the first place with those political forces which have already demonstrated in the Duma that they can unite to implement agreed draft laws. By way of example, Glazyev stated that the Democratic Party of Russia faction, which he himself leads, has in the present Duma actively cooperated with "Women of Russia," "Yabloko," the Agrarian Party of Russia, and the majority of single-seat representatives.

Recently, from being a "dark horse," the KRO has become a bona fide rival of the government "Russia Is Our Home" [NDR] bloc. It looks as if the official contenders for power were not prepared to see General Lebed, who is not under their control, and Yuriy Skokov, who is clearly no longer under their control, in place of the "left-wing" alternative instead of Ivan Rybkin, who is well-known to them. NDR can no longer fail to take notice of the KRO as it did at the beginning of the campaign. As a result, "Home" is having to put a brave face on its poor performance — "leaks" have begun to filter through into the press about permanent negotiations between Skokov and senior Kremlin circles.

But it is nevertheless difficult to believe that such negotiations are possible. Separate negotiations between Yuriy Skokov and the Kremlin could have no future as they would lead to a significant proportion of politicians working in the CRC leaving it, as they are not prepared to share responsibility with the present authorities for the latter's, to say the least, political miscalculations that have lead to a crisis of power in the country. On the other hand, the unexpected reconciliation between the KRO and the present Kremlin leadership would deprive the bloc of a vote of national confidence, which is essential to implement a program of unification.

With its current membership, the KRO cannot be an ally of Gen. Sterligov's radical opposition or of the radical communists, as the uncompromising rhetorical nature of the radicals' election slogans prevents them from reaching political compromises and producing programs based on the true state of affairs instead of on a set of populist appeals. The regional leaders, a significant proportion of whom support the congress [KRO], will never go done the road of radicalism as at present the most important thing to the Russian provinces, which are being stifled in the economic crisis, is stability.

The coming weeks will show how the political battle prior to the elections will shape up. But even now it is clear that the Congress of Russian Communities — which just six months ago was a little known organization — has forced people to reckon with it as a realistic contender in the election race that is ready to provide competition for any opponent.

Military Generals Seen Campaigning for Status Quo

MM0510154595 Moscow PRAVDA ROSSII in Russian 5 Oct 95 p 4

[Article by Major General Boris Golyshev: "Generals' Democratic Agitprop"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been noticed that, as soon as things get too much for the present regime, it starts flirting with the Army. Now it also seems that the top echelons of power, not particularly relying on the "Home" being built by V. Chernomyrdin, have decided to throw the military into the maelstrom of the election campaign.

In connection with instructions from above P. Grachev, author of a postulate dragged up out of oblivion — "the Army is outside politics" — called a meeting of the Defense Ministry Collegium. It adopted a decision to organize a struggle for seats in the State Duma. But even before that "historic" decision orders had been sent to the districts and fleets, posing in not too disguised a form the task of instilling in servicemen the need to vote for reformers.

Thus, General Staff Directives 4/703 and 4/472 require "the organization of work on the study and nomination of... independent candidates" and "the reporting of sentiments and measures being taken to a Russian Federation Defense Ministry working group every Thursday...." Only I do not understand independent of whom: the Army, the people, conscience, the government?

On 15 September the minister of defense also sent a detachment of generals into television for "reconnaissance in force." It included Colonel General A. Bogdanov, deputy chief of the General Staff; Col. Gen. V. Barynkin, chief of the General Staff Operations Directorate; Col. Gen. V. Zherebtsov, chief of the General Staff Organization and Mobilization Directorate; Col. Gen. V. Vorobyev, chief of the Defense Ministry Military Budget and Finance Directorate; Lieutenant General G. Ivanov, deputy minister of defense for military policy; and Lt. Gen. S. Zdorikov, chief of the Defense Ministry Educational Work Main Directorate.

Without reconnoitering, the young, pink-cheeked generals rushed to explain to the television viewers what the military reform is. Only it was impossible to understand why all the previous reforms of the Russian and Soviet Army (from Ivan IV to M. Frunze) had strengthened the Armed Forces' combat readiness, while the present transformations have reduced it to dystrophy.

Col. Gen. Zherebtsov reported something close to the truth about the state of affairs in the Army. The undermanning of troops and of naval forces really has reached a critical point. If you add to this the fact that we have almost stopped buying new military hardware and building ships, then the picture is more than depressing. Russia's enemies have now stopped reckoning with it as a great power. They do not react to any of the president's "terrible" tirades in connection with the bombing of Serbs by NATO aircraft. Z. Brzezinski, who is not unknown, does not tire of reiterating that Russia is a vanquished country and must know its place. But the generals avoided acute, topical subjects and led the conversation around to the upcoming elections.

Ivanov, a very close colleague of the defense minister and his school buddy at the academy, doubts that servicemen will get to grips with the political parties and electoral associations. Hence the conclusion: They should vote for the present regime — for "Russia Is Our Home," it has to be thought. Of course, gentlemen generals, God himself ordered you to vote for Chernomyrdin's monster: Within it you have grown from colonels to two- and three-star generals. You received your posts not for the art of military leadership or for strengthening the country's defense but for conciliationism with the present regime. Some also had a hand in the shooting up of the House of the Soviets. Despite the fact that it is an extremely hard life in the troops and the fleets, wages are issued on time in the Ministry of Defense. Moreover, during the time of the reforms top military leaders have acquired private ownership of 427 former state dachas, for a song, you might say.

Lt. Gen. Zdorikov, the Russian Army's chief educator, instructed servicemen to fulfill the regulations. This is to be understood to mean: Support the powers that be and vote for them.

There was a time when "democrats" accused the Army of all manner of sins. Now that it is in their hands, they are systematically destroying it. The Armed Forces have been put on starvation rations, since they are less than one-half funded. There is no fuel or spare parts, aircraft and ships are mostly laid up, and exercises are not conducted. Will servicemen really vote for a power that has reduced what only yesterday was the world's strongest army to utter impotence?

If the State Duma is "taken" by the supporters of B. Yeltsin, P. Grachev, D. Volkogonov, and S. Yushenkov, then the Russian Army should expect nothing good.

Let us hope that it will be heirs of Marshal of the Soviet Union G. Zhukov and comrades in arms of Army General V. Varennikov and true fighters for our Soviet motherland who will come into the State Duma.

CIS Ministers Disagree on Closer Integration

MK0710062095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Viktor Timoshenko: "Differences Will Hinder Scheduled Summit. An Epilogue to CIS Foreign Ministers Council Session"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Unlike some other CIS participants, the Russian Foreign Ministry has its own plans for "closer integration." As a result of a meeting in Moscow, six ministers from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan and six first deputies from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Moldova, and Ukraine, did not sign any of the 17 documents they had discussed.

Russia, which considers the "not very distant ['nedalekoye,' which also means 'not very bright'] abroad" a zone of its close attention, was interested in creating a concept of CIS peacekeeping activities. Expecting to be supported, it put forward ideas on forming working agencies — a Council and a Secretariat of CIS Collective Security — as well as a draft procedure for funding peacekeeping actions. However, while Tajikistan vigorously supported these proposals, the other participants, especially Moldova and Ukraine, differed. Ukraine believes that the legitimacy of peacekeeping activity is determined by already existing authoritative international organizations.

The second package of questions initiated by Russia was coordination of the countries' actions on the international scene. The Russian delegation believes united CIS working agencies should be set up to coordinate CIS relations with ASEAN, UNESCO, and other international organizations. These proposals found no support either. According to the majority's view, they need "conceptual fine-tuning."

Ukraine was interested in the problem of the return of the Crimean Tatars, who are coming back to Crimea from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Uzbekistan. In the view of Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Konstantin Hryshchenko, it is necessary to solve right away "the entire set of legal and financial aspects of this problem."

The results of the foreign ministers' conference are discouraging. Indeed, the conference was supposed to pave the way for the CIS summit planned for October 1995. No final decision was made, however. The date of the summit will most likely be moved further down the road.

CIS Military 'Collaboration' Not New Bloc

LD0610102095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Oct 95 p 3

[Article by Colonel General Viktor Samsonov, chief of Staff for Coordinating Military Cooperation Among CIS States, under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "Defense Alliance Is Not a New Military Bloc"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The development of the situation in the Balkans, especially the events of recent months, full of large-scale military actions by the different sides and the resolute military actions of the NATO Joint Armed Forces conducted under UN auspices, and the unpredictability of the course and outcome of the conflict as a whole inevitably cause concern to the public in both Russia and the other CIS states.

The conflict in the Balkans affects the interests of a whole series of countries, not only in Europe, and contains a number of serious contradictions. This requires the states directly involved in the conflict to pursue an equal and balanced policy toward the opposing sides. It is only with such an approach that the danger of the conflict's escalation can be averted and it can be brought to an end.

However, the practice of applying different political and economic sanctions and measures of a military character against the opposing sides suggests that the opposite is true.

The principle of "openness" in military activity has not been fully observed, and furthermore not just in the general sense of the word but in the implementation of specific military actions. Especially since the mechanisms necessary for coordinating joint efforts and the "dual key" principle were established during the preparation of the corresponding UN Security Council resolutions regulating the use of force.

It has to be borne in mind that in this instance we are talking not simply about the everyday activity of the armed forces but of their use in terminating a serious and bloody military conflict with far-reaching consequences for European security as a whole. In view of the lack of the necessary unity of opinions on questions of settling the conflict by political and diplomatic means, separate military actions can only be regarded as a show of force and a desire to dominate the region which, in our opinion, significantly undermines mutual trust between the sides.

As for the specific means of resolving the Balkan crisis, priority here must be given to political and diplomatic measures. Resolute strong-arm methods certainly do not contradict that position. However, when determining the specific methods and scale of the use of force it is necessary not only to bear in mind the short-term political effect but also to be guided by loftier goals based on relations of openness and trust.

The whole world community, including the members of the CIS, undoubtedly have an interest in the earliest possible settlement of the Balkan crisis. Stability and security in the world, first and foremost in Europe and Asia, correspond to the CIS' strategic aims. The attainment of that goal could be considerably helped by their coordinated actions in the foreign policy sphere defined by mutual commitments. Such commitments are contained in particular in the 15 May 1992 Collective Security Treaty.

Since the development of events in the Balkans is assuming a dangerous character, the CIS states must immediately set in motion the mechanism of joint consultations so as to coordinate their positions and adopt measures to eliminate the threat which has emerged.

Such actions by the CIS should certainly not be viewed as the formation of a bloc and a return to confrontation. In the present international atmosphere this is above all an attempt to ensure their own security by collective efforts within the framework of a regional collective security system.

Military security is just one of the many forms of security that the majority of countries want to achieve. The practice of world development shows that this goal can be achieved in practice only on the basis of the pooling of states' efforts. Such a pooling of efforts is possible, for example, within the framework a defense alliance which could essentially be a form of collaboration among states in the military sphere.

The objective conditions for the formation of such an alliance based on the community of interests and military-political aims already exist in the CIS states. The corresponding interstate documents reflecting the countries' desire for closer cooperation in the military security sphere also exist.

The in-depth realization of the need for the earliest possible pooling of efforts and of the importance of a switch from the intention to deepen military cooperation to its practical implementation would help to strengthen the CIS states' military integration and increase their influence on the development of world events directly affecting their collective interests.

Given that military security can be interpreted as the absence of the danger of war, the main aim of the CIS states' defense alliance could be to prevent war or to end it as soon as possible if it breaks out.

The defense alliance of the CIS states together with other regional security structures could be an integral component of a general collective security system capable of effectively influencing the military-political situation in the world. It should not be regarded as a military bloc. It is an instrument for the protection of the states' national interests and is certainly not a mechanism for conflict or confrontation.

The coordinated actions of unions of states with common strategic aims could help to ensure stability and security in the world and help to bring the various armed conflicts, including such protracted and bloody conflicts as that in the Balkans, to an end as quickly as possible.

Experts Discuss Cooperation in Nuclear Engineering

WS0910112195 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0801 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the two days of work at the Minsk-based CIS Headquarters experts from the CIS member states have never managed to work out a final version of a long-term plan for the development of CIS cooperation in the area of the peaceful use of nuclear power and the increasing of the safety of nuclear reactors.

As a BELAPAN correspondent was informed at the press-office of the CIS Executive Secretariat, the experts reached agreement only on the structure of the document, and on the list of its main issues and subject-matters. Participants at the meeting spoke in favour of the establishment of a single coordinating body in the CIS for the peaceful use of nuclear power and reached an agreement on the agenda for the next meeting, scheduled for December, i.e. to consider a new draft of the long-term plan. The Russian Federation was entrusted with the elaboration of this draft.

Turkmen-Tajik-Iranian Talks on Oil Continue

LD0910163195 Tashkent BIZNES VESTNIK VOSTOKA in Russian 6 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] An interstate agreement is being drafted in the capitals of two Central Asian states, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Signing is scheduled for the upcoming summit this autumn.

Trade and economic cooperation is to remain the priority. Agreement has been reached on deliveries of mineral fertilizers, aluminum, caustic soda, and unwashed wool to Turkmenistan. The latter item will be processed at Turkmen enterprises and some of it returned to Tajikistan.

Oil products will remain the main Turkmen commodity on the Tajik market. At the Tajiks' request, Turkmenistan has not halted its deliveries of fuel and lubricants, which are virtually a loan. The debt totals $16.5 million. In an interview for Turkmen television, Tukhtabcy Gaforov, Tajik economy and foreign economic Relations minister, noted that mutual payments will be regulated through correspondent accounts at the national banks.

According to the Tajik minister, joint development work is being done with Iran on supplying Iranian oil to the oil refinery at Chardzhou, in Turkmenistan. The trilateral cooperation scheme is to be tested over time: It is planned that Turkmenistan will receive raw materials for its refinery on a give-and-take basis, and send some of the oil products on to Tajikistan.

The prospects for supplying Turkmen natural gas in the future are also being studied. Tajikistan currently takes about 1.7 billion cubic meters of Uzbek gas. As Mr. Gaforov said, the need for this fuel will steadily rise as industry recovers.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 October

LD1010063895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0620 GMT 10 Oct 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 10 (ITAR-TASS) — ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries an interview with chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko who touched upon a wide range of political, economic and federal problems of a state system. In a publication entitled "Three Pillars of Strong Power — Centre, Regions, Party," Shumeyko analyses the distribution of political forces in the country in the run up to parliamentary elections, predicting that "after the elections the State Duma will resemble a blanket made of scraps with no blocs winning the majority of seats."

PRAVDA carries an article by chairman of the presidium of the Communist party Viktor Vidyaminov, entitled "It's Not Time Yet to Toll the Bells for the Motherland", in which the author outlines a programme of the Russian Communist Party should the communists win the elections to the state Duma and presidential elections in 1996.

IZVESTIYA highlights the situation in Chechnya which deteriorated following an attempt on the life of the Russian deputy Interior minister and commander of federal troops in Chechnya, Colonel-General Anatoliy Romanov. "The Russian president ponders over the problem whether he should sign a decree on imposing a state of emergency in Chechnya. In all probability, he will sign the decree on October 10," writes Vasily Kononenko with reference to different sources in the Kremlin. "But what will happen in Chechnya after the state of emergency is introduced, further hostilities or the continuation of the talks?" IZVESTIYA asked. The author of the commentary failed to get an explanation why the territory on which the state of emergency would be in effect was confined to Groznyy only, rather than be introduced within the boundaries of all Chechnya. Apparently, federal troops are unable to take under control settlements and highland areas either, where Dudayev's militants are scattered. In another article, commenting on the condition of badly injured General Romanov, IZVESTIYA gives versions suggesting who, logically, could have committed the terrorist act. The newspaper arrives at the conclusion that the culprits of the terrorist act will not be found in the near future. "It is senseless to ask the question 'Who is responsible?' now. The activities of investigating bodies in Groznyy have long been paralyzed. People not confident in their future are afraid to collaborate with them. It is not ruled out that new explosions will shatter Groznyy soon," the newspaper said.

ROSSIYSKIE VESTI carries an interview with leader of the Peasant party Viktor Chernichenko, who said that the land sold elsewhere is worth billions by now. In his opinion, "being chairman now as advantageous now as ever." [sentence as received] One might groan, curse politics, reforms, but ride in a foreign-made jeep and build a "three-storeyed hut" on the outskirts of a regional centre.

"You might say that people have not been paid for months, but be well-off yourself. No one will reproach you. Just look: Half the cattle has been slaughtered, while chairman of state farms instead of handing over cattle to the people, have exterminated four million cows, 23 million sheep and goats, 15 million pigs. Incidentally, no one has been brought to justice," Chernichenko said.

Yeltsin Orders Arms Sales Upgraded on World Markets

LD1010101695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0959 GMT 10 Oct 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia is planning to switch to a qualitatively new level in its arms trade on the world market by allowing sales of its latest weapons and combat equipment to foreign customers, an expert told ITAR-TASS today.

The expert, Yevgeniy Bozhenov, was commenting on the Russian President's decree "On Military-Technical Cooperation between the Russian Federation and Foreign Countries" signed on October 5.

Bozhenov said potential buyers of Russia's last-generation arms and combat equipment were mainly located in countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

"China has shown considerable interest in our latest aviation products and the new tanks. South Korea is eyeing our armoured personnel carriers and anti-tank and anti-aircraft complexes. India wants to buy a heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser," Bozhenov said.

"Interesting proposals have been received from other APR countries, including Malaysia and Thailand," he stressed.

Bozhenov, who is an adviser to the chairman of the State Committee for the defence industries of the Russian Federation, also said the presidential decree allowed the country to toughen state control over this very sensitive field of activity and rule out the possibility of loss-making sales of arms and combat equipment to foreign customers.

He added that special attention would be paid to the commercial activity of the Aviaexport stock company which sells dual purpose aviation machinery equipped for installation of arms.

"Our committee is mandated by decree to ensure control over compliance with the terms of all signed contracts for the delivery of arms and equipment and for providing services in the military field," Bozhenov said.

The Russian suppliers granted the right to export arms and equipment will also undertake to provide maintenance and servicing of the products, Bozhenov said.

Where needed, they will make arrangements for foreign experts to study Russian arms and for foreign crews to train to use and service Russian systems and complexes, the expert said.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Interviews Chinese Premier

MM1010131795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Oct 95 p 7

[Report by Vsevolod Ovchinnikov: "China: Socialist Path to Capitalist Ideals. Premier Li Peng Speaks of Prospects for China's Development Over the Coming 15 Years"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Creating the preconditions for the completion of the work of modernizing China by the middle of the next century — that is the goal for the coming 15 years. That was how the PRC State Council premier described the crux of the important decisions adopted in Beijing on the eve of the 46th anniversary of the republic. Your ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent had a chance to hear about this straight from the mouth of Li Peng when the head of the PRC government spoke to the latest winners of the Chinese Order of Friendship.

According to Li Peng, the recent CPC Central Committee Plenum summed up the results of the work of the last 15 years and mapped out guidelines for the coming 15 years. The plenum ratified the draft ninth five-year plan and also a forward-looking plan through the year 2010 — the interim phase between the second and third stages of modernization.

I must explain that when starting reforms ahead of the eighties China outlined three strategic phases for itself. The first one enshrined the aim of doubling GDP in the eighties, increasing it from $250 to $500 per capita in order to ensure that only one in 10 Chinese rather than one in four suffer from poverty.

The second strategic phase envisages once again doubling GDP by the end of the century. This has already been achieved in absolute figures. But since China will have 300 million more inhabitants in the year 2000 than it did in 1980, serious efforts still have to be made to raise GDP by the end of the century to $1,000 per capita. That will enable China to put an end to poverty. Before reforms began 250 million Chinese experienced basic shortages of food and clothing. Now that number has dropped to 70 million and by the year 2000 there should be no one in need at all. The main task of the ninth five-year plan is to create the backbone of a socialist market economy and achieve the second strategic phase of modernization in all parameters. Last, the third strategic phase envisages increasing GDP between the years 2000 and 2050 by another 300 percent, from $1,000 to $4,000 per capita notwithstanding a population of 1.5 billion. This will enable China to put an end to backwardness and attain the level of countries of medium development. The forward-looking plan adopted recently serves as an interim landmark for the resolution of this ambitious task. It plans in the period 2000-2010 to once again double per capita GDP and fully complete the formation of a socialist market economy system.

During the past 15 years, Li Peng noted, China has successfully advanced along the path of reform. Particularly during the eighth five-year plan, when average yearly economic growth stood at 11.7 percent. In order to ensure rapid, steady, sound development over the next 15 years, the premier stressed, China must, first, complete the transition to a market economy and, second, implement the transition from extensive to intensive economic growth. GDP should rise primarily by boosting efficiency and the emphasis must be placed on qualitative rather than quantitative indicators.

Priority attention will still be devoted to agriculture, the development of which in Chinese conditions is not only of economic but also of political significance, Li Peng said. While only having 7 percent of the world's arable land China has to feed 22 percent of the world's population. Despite the rigid restrictions on the birth rate, the population is rising annually by 14 million. The United States, for instance, has almost twice as much arable land as China although its population is one-fifth the size. That is why Chinese demographic policy must not be approached by U.S. yardsticks. The main tasks in the countryside over the coming 15 years are to boost the yield by the use of advanced agricultural technology and finding jobs for the surplus work force by developing enterprises in villages and hamlets.

Li Peng said that a central link in economic reform over the coming years will be the revival and strengthening of state enterprises. During the ninth five-year plan their transformation into a system of modern corporations will be accelerated. However this will be done experimentally at first, in a leisurely, systematic manner in order to avoid adverse social consequences.

The State Council premier said in conclusion that the outlined plans also make provision for the continuation of political reforms. The role of assemblies of people's representatives of all levels will be enhanced, democracy and legality strengthened, and socialist spiritual culture developed. The next 15 years should be a bridge for China between past and future.

ITAR-TASS Summarizes Chernomyrdin Remarks to U.S. Group

LD0910202095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1958 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Gennady Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met a large group of U.S. businessmen here on Monday. They have arrived in Russia to get acquainted with the situation in the country and meet with top Russian leaders. The trip of the group — about 100 business people — has been arranged by the Time Warner Corporation which publishes Time Magazine.

Here are the main points of the premier's remarks.

NUCLEAR DEAL WITH IRAN.

"We reiterate once again and state that Russia does not supply Iran with either materials, technologies or installations that would make it possible to develop nuclear weapons.

"The project of the nuclear power station in the Iranian city of Bushehr has nothing to do with the development of nuclear weapons in any way. Russia is fully in control of the situation. Besides, control is also exercised by other international organisations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"A similar reactor operating according to similar technology is now being built in North Korea with the assistance of the U.S., Japan and South Korea. The Iranian nuclear power station construction project involves both Russia and France. We have a common task - to prevent Iran from developing technology by means of which it would be possible to develop nuclear weapons any time in the future."

NATO'S EASTWARD EXPANSION PLANS.

"Russia opposes the idea of NATO's eastward expansion to draw closer to the borders of our state. Moscow visualizes the future of NATO as a peacemaking, sociopolitical organisation. For the first time in 70 years, Russia has no enemy image any longer, and this is the greatest achievement of reforms effected in our country over the past several years.

"Keeping the current status, i.e. the absence of an enemy image, depends both on Russia and the U.S. If there is no enemy image, there will be no flashpoints. Stabilisation in Europe will grow."

PROSPECTS FOR RUSSIA'S DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

Chernomyrdin expressed confidence that market reforms in Russia have become irreversible and that time will be needed to consolidate them. A decisive change in the economic situation will be made before the century is out, he said.

"Russia possesses all types of resources. It has developed and continues to develop the newest technologies. But one of the main problems is not only to create and adopt appropriate market-oriented laws but to foster psychological change of attitude among a majority of people in Russia."

NATIONALISM AND ANTISEMITISM.

Chernomyrdin categorically denied the possibility of eventual outbursts of nationalism or antisemitism. "Such an outburst is ruled out in our country. There are no particular manifestations of antisemitism in Russia now. Moreover, manifestations of antisemitism have dwindled compared with those under the rigid system in Soviet times. During Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin's recent visit to Russia, no matters related to any manifestations of antisemitism were raised altogether."

"As far as nationalism is concerned, some people do try to play the nationalist card in Russia now. We reckon with the danger of such attempts, but there are no flare-ups of nationalism or the danger of their emergence. To Russia, nationalism and fascism are unacceptable."

ON RUSSIAN MPS' PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY.

The premier firmly favoured the idea that Federal Assembly members should enjoy such immunity.

However, while advocating the maintenance of full parliamentary immunity, Chernomyrdin emphasised that criminals should be punished and that the provisions of the Russian laws would be applied to them. He recalled that State Duma Member Sergei Mavrodi, who is accused of large-scale financial frauds, was stripped of parliamentary immunity recently and that criminal proceedings have been instituted against him.

RUSSIAN-US PASSENGER AIRLINER PROJECT.

"The Russian-U.S. project to co-develop a Russian Il-96 passenger airliner with a U.S.-made engine will make it possible to increase trade turnover between the two countries by about 1,000 million dollars.

"The project which will provide jobs for 200,000 people in the U.S. was discussed with U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore during the recent meeting in Maine."

TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND US.

"The trade and economic relations between the two countries develop at a high rate and trade turnover has already mounted to 7,000 million dollars. But this state of affairs does not quite suit Russia, since the potential of economic cooperation is much higher than that.

"U.S. businessmen have already invested more than 2,000 million dollars in the Russian economy, which is a relatively good result but the share of Russian capital in total trade turnover is only half a billion dollars, which is unpardonably little."

INVESTMENT CLIMATE IMPROVEMENTS.

"The situation concerning the establishment of a more favourable investment climate in Russia has considerably improved. The government has recently taken a number of measures in this respect such as liberalising foreign economic activities, granting substantial financial privileges to big investors, and fighting crime.

"The government presented a more clear-cut and transparent draft new taxation legislation to the State Duma of Russia."

ON CHECHNYA AND OVERALL CRIME SITUATION.

"People in Chechnya are Russian citizens and the Chechen republic is part of Russian Federation. No changes in the Federal authorities' position on the sovereignty and independence of Chechnya are forthcoming."

Chernomyrdin said he had a working meeting with Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov on Monday to discuss these problems. Kulikov told the Premier that on the whole the crime situation in Russia has stabilised lately.

Chernomyrdin expressed confidence that the U.S. businessmen's current visit will help establish new business contacts and improve the old ones. The potential of the contacts is great. The Premier singled out such areas as joint power development projects, space research, and defence industry conversion to civilian uses.

Taking part in the meeting with U.S. businessmen were also Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, Vice-Premiers Vitaliy Ignatenko and Oleg Davydov, and leaders of a number of Ministries and Departments.

On Tuesday morning, the Premier will have a working meeting with President Boris Yeltsin to discuss the situation in the Chechen republic. The situation has become aggravated following the recent terrorist act directed against Lieutenant-General Anatoly Romanov, Commander of the Combined Group of Federal Forces in Chechnya.

Immediately after the meeting with the President, Chernomyrdin is due to leave by air for Bashkiria to attend a celebration meeting marking the 5th anniversary of the proclamation of the independence of the Bashkir Republic which is part of the Russian Federation. The anniversary is celebrated in Ufa on October 11.

Besides, the Russian Premier on Tuesday is to confer with the administration chiefs of districts and cities of Bashkiria and meet with Bashkir President Murtaza Rakhimov.

Chernomyrdin is planning to return to Moscow on Wednesday morning.

$7 Billion Trade With U.S. Targeted

LD0910173595 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1602 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — Trade turnover between Russia and the U.S. will reach $7 billion by the end of this year, or two times more than it was in 1992, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said at a meeting with a group of U.S. businessmen and the staff of the U.S. "Time" magazine today.

Chernomyrdin said U.S. investments into the Russian economy totalled about $2 billion, which "is not a bad result."

Chernomyrdin said the development of investment cooperation was "not impressive in comparison with the size of the two countries' economy." He said Russia accounted for only 0.5% of U.S. foreign trade. Chernomyrdin said the development of bilateral economic cooperation was hindered by "psychological problems, the inertia of the state machine, insufficient information about the Russian market and Russia's investment capabilities."

Chernomyrdin stressed that U.S. law-makers had not so far withdrawn Russia from the entitlement to the discriminatory Jackson-Wanich amendment. He said the U.S. authorities kept applying the "presumption of refusal" regarding Russian bank's desire to open their affiliates in the U.S.

Chernomyrdin said that, however, the U.S.' Citibank and Chase Manhattan had "full-scale affiliates" in Russia. He said Moscow was also concerned over the "anti-dumping prosecution of competitive Russian uranium and services for its enrichment in the U.S."

Chernomyrdin said he considered as "short-sighted" the "attempts to hinder the enhancement of joint production of Il-96M passenger plane for long-distance flights which has been designed by the Ilyushin Constructor's Bureau." He said the delivery of U.S. Pratt & Whitney engines and Rockwell Collins avionics only for the first series of 20 Il-96M planes would bring U.S. industry $850 million worth of orders and jobs for 20,000 people.

Chernomyrdin said he was confident that the two countries would manage to overcome difficulties regarding bilateral economic relations. "We want to cooperate and I'm sure [we] will cooperate," he said.

Premier Reports to Yeltsin on Canada, U.S. Visits

LD1010105195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1026 GMT 10 Oct 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today discussed the Chechen issue with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and "expressed anxiety over the aggravation of the situation in the republic. He added, however, that the federal bodies of state authority had not yet exhausted all the available means to stabilise the situation in Chechnya," the presidential press service said in a press release.

The press service, which reported on a regular meeting between the President and the Prime Minister, stressed that "according to the President of the Russian Federation, any steps to be taken in the Chechen republic must be well-balanced and thoroughly thought-through."

The press service said the President and the Prime Minister also discussed a number of other subjects. The Prime Minister "reported to the head of state on the results of his visit to Canada and the talks he held with the Canadian leaders, as well as on his meetings with representatives of the Canadian business circles. He stressed the good and promising prospects for cooperation between the two countries," the press service said.

Chernomyrdin also informed Yeltsin about his meeting with U.S. Vice-President Albert Gore on the Russian President's instruction. The Russian Prime Minister and the U.S. Vice-President discussed aspects of the coming Yeltsin-Clinton summit scheduled for October 23.

President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin also discussed "some personnel questions," the press service reported.

Chernomyrdin: Chechen Decision To Be Made in Moscow

LD0810083795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0250 GMT 8 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Anatoliy Lazarev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangor, Maine, 8 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — A decision on the situation in Chechnya will be taken, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stated here on 7 October in connection with the recent events in that republic, including the terrorist act against Lieutenant General Anatoliy Romanov, commander of the joint group of federal troops in the Chechen Republic. "We will be tackling this issue upon my return to Moscow. Now it is too early to comment. We will however take a decision on this issue," the prime minister said in reply to a request made by the ITAR-TASS correspondent to comment on the situation in Chechnya.

The Russian prime minister made a brief stopover in Bangor on his way back to Moscow from Canada in order to conduct a meeting with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore.

Chernomyrdin, Chretien Adopt Cooperation Statement

LD0710084595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0717 GMT 7 Oct 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov and Nikolay Setunskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] OTTAWA, October 7 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian premier Viktor Chernomyrdin ended the official part of his Canadian visit with a dinner with Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Ouellett on Friday.

The Statement on priority areas of Russian-Canadian economic cooperation was adopted on the results of his talks with Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

The heads of the two governments, the Statement runs, discussed a broad range of issues, including ways and methods of development and strengthening of bilateral relations in the spirit of the Treaty of accord and cooperation between the Russian Federation and Canada, signed in Ottawa on June 19, 1992.

As a followup to the talks between President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Jean Chretien in Halifax in June 1995 and in Moscow in May 1995, the document notes, the heads of government agreed with the importance of expanding economic cooperation.

They pointed to a considerable contribution it can make to the cause of economic growth, creation of jobs and prosperity of the two nations, the document says.

The heads of government participated in the opening of the first session of the Russian-Canadian intergovernment economic commission on October 5.

The session of the commission attended by representatives from the governments and the private sector, is called upon to ensure conditions to deepen economic cooperation between Russia and Canada as well as to render assistance to businessmen of the two countries in establishing business cooperation, the Statement underlines.

The two prime ministers stated, in the document, support for efforts aimed at creating most favourable conditions for trade and investments, including further liberalisation of trade and settlement of trade disputes.

They expressed satisfaction with positive results in stabilising the economy in Russia in the recent past. The two premiers noted that the continued advance to a market economy and creation of most favourable conditions for commercial operations and foreign investments will expand prospects for bilateral trade.

The heads of government, the Statement continues, confirmed their intention to promote the earliest start of talks to review the Agreement of mutual encouragement and protection of capital investments.

Such an agreement would enable the sides to reinforce protection of investments, strengthen confidence of investors and would help to step up investment flows, the document goes on to say.

The Statement expresses satisfaction with the Canadian programme for consultative and technical cooperation. One of its main aims is to develop the private sector, especially in spheres where Canada has expert knowledge or where Russia and Canada can exchange experience, including training of managerial personnel, the power industry, agriculture, the development of northern areas and environmental control.

The two prime ministers stressed that Canada supports Russia's efforts to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and will continue to render assistance to Russia in creating a trade regime conforming to obligations in the framework of the WTO.

The Statement gives much attention to multilateral cooperation. For instance, the heads of government expressed satisfaction with positive results of the summit in Halifax.

They pointed to the continued topicality of an all-embracing multilateral solution for the problem of Russian debts as well as to Russia's interest in closer cooperation with the Paris Club.

The sides confirmed their commitment to a search for joint solutions of some global problems. In this connection, they welcomed coming meetings in Ottawa on cooperation in the struggle against terrorism and international crime.

The Statement notes that the heads of government stressed the importance of the coming Moscow summit on nuclear security, which is scheduled for April 1996 and devoted to expansion of cooperation in this sphere.

The document expresses determination of the two countries to promote success of this unique forum.

The Statement notes in conclusion that the first visit by the Russian premier to Canada is a timely opportunity for Chernomyrdin and Chretien to discuss again key bilateral and international issues, to advance in settling questions on the economic agenda and to lay down foundations for the coming state visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Canada.

Chernomyrdin Rounds Up Results of Canada Visit

LD0610225595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2141 GMT 6 Oct 95

[By Gennadiy Yezhov and Nikolay Setunskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] OTTAWA, October 7 (ITAR-TASS) — "Economic problems were high on the agenda of talks held during a brief visit to Canada, but which was rich in content," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said during a lunch with Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Quellet on Friday, attended by representatives of Canadian business circles.

"A bill on sharing products, which will primarily interest Western investors, will be adopted in Russia this year in any case," Chernomyrdin said. The bill will be adopted despite the fact that the Upper chamber of the Russian parliament has "held up the draft bill" while the government delegation was in Canada, he added.

Chernomyrdin described the situation in Russia as "uneasy," adding that there had been a growing tendency towards stabilisation. Besides, the situation in Russia to a great extent depends on preparations for parliamentary elections which will be held "at the scheduled time and in keeping with the law," Chernomyrdin said.

Chernomyrdin also attended a session of the House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament and held talks with the Canadian foreign minister on a broad range of international problems. Addressing the Canadian foreign minister, Chernomyrdin said that "Russia appreciates Canada as a reliable partner in a group of "eight" industrially developed nations. On the other hand, addressing Canadian businessmen who were present during the lunch, the Russian prime minister stressed that the economic potential for bilateral cooperation had not been fully used up. Chernomyrdin noted that bilateral cooperation was impeded by the "poor knowledge of each other's business qualities and too much time taken to look into joint projects suggested for approval." The prime minister said that it is necessary to provide guarantees for Canadian investments and give credit and financial support to trade transactions, which will become a priority in the work of the Russian government.

Grachev 'Immovable' in Talks With Perry

MM1010095695 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Oct 95 p 7

[Report by Leonid Timofeyev: "NATO Is Not Going To Torment Grachev"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sunday began none too well for Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev. Early in the morning, playing doubles with Colonel General Kharchenko on the tennis court of the Russian mission at the United Nations in Geneva, he lost a match to local diplomats in two sets, with a score of 3:6, 1:6. Then his second meeting with William Perry, leader of the U.S. military department, began, the first half of which was also very difficult.

It was necessary to resolve the rather complex problem of Russian troops' participation in peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia, which the Americans would like to conduct under NATO flags. Our minister insisted that he should not be tormented by the acronym "NATO," and he and Perry agreed to submit to their presidents the following name for the campaign: "Operation of Forces for the Fulfillment of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina." And the decision to set up multinational forces must be adopted by the UN Security Council.

While things drag on, in the near future a group of Russian officers is to set off for the headquarters of the NATO supreme allied commander Europe, not far from the Belgian city of Mons, to participate directly in the planning of the operation. Pavel Grachev told KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's correspondent that our group will be headed by Colonel General Leontiy Shevtsov.

It has become known from reliable sources that the Americans proposed that the Russian battalions be "spread" around NATO operations groups. But Pavel Grachev was immovable: You have your systems of management and we have ours. So the Russian contingent will carry out autonomously the tasks required in the operation specified for it in the plan. The argument that the Americans have more peacekeeping experience had no effect on Pavel Sergeyevich. Also, the Americans were impressed by Moscow's readiness to send to Bosnia-Herzegovina an airborne division reinforced by fighter, assault, and bomber aviation. Perry said that this is too much, and the final strength of the Russian contingent will depend on the operation plan.

They tried to "catch out" our minister with money: Each side, they said, would allocate as many troops as it could finance. Of course, we are rather poor now, but you can, in the end, create a fund of states interested in ending the conflict so as to compensate for expenditure that is beyond the powers of U.N. or individual countries. It was decided that the financing does not fall within the competence of the defense ministers.

Speaking to the press at the end of the talks, the military ministers were rather optimistic and added to the positive feeling by announcing that the "Peacekeeper-95" joint Russian-U.S. maneuvers will begin on U.S. territory on 23 October.

Tough discussions still lie ahead, but it seems that Pavel Grachev did not lose this "diplomatic set."

Gazprom Begins Pumping Gas to Sarajevo

LD1010104795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1027 GMT 10 Oct 95

[By Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 10 (ITAR-TASS) — A spokesman of the Russian Gazprom giant said Tuesday Russia began to pump natural gas into the pipeline going to Sarajevo overnight and the fuel will soon reach the city.

"The technological systems of the pipeline are operating in a normal regime, it is continued to be filled with gas", he told TASS adding that "after there is enough pressure in the pipe, the gas will soon reach Sarajevo".

However, the spokesman refused to tell the exact time when the gas will come to the city.

Moscow Attempts To Link Gas Export to Bosnia Truce

LD0910161095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — A senior Russian diplomat on Monday condemned attempts to link a cease-fire in Bosnia to the resumption by Russia of its natural gas export to Sarajevo. The linkage is "inappropriate and provocative," the diplomat told INTERFAX. "Attempts to put on Russia responsibility for the possible postponement of the coming into effect of the agreement on cease-fire in Bosnia are essentially counterproductive."

There is a political decision to resume gas export, the diplomat said. "The president of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin have made statements to that effect. But there are also purely technical problems that have to be solved."

"It takes at least six to eight hours to fill the pipe with gas and increase pressure in it," the diplomat continued. "Besides, Russia, which has only just received permission from the U.N. sanctions Committee, must obtain consent from Ukraine and Hungary, through whose territory the gas pipeline passes."

Russia would also have to pay the two countries for the transit of its gas, but "the critics of the Russian Federation prefer to gloss that over."

"In case the hysteria over the export of Russian gas to Bosnia carries on, Moscow can make its own conditions... We, for example, can also link the delivery of gas to a cease-fire in Bosnia. In other words, first a ceasefire and then the delivery of gas."

But so far "Moscow is not going to make any radical moves," the diplomat said. "Gas will come to Bosnia. But regardless of that the cease-fire in the former Yugoslav republic must take effect, as planned, from 0000 hours on October 10."

Chernomyrdin: Peace in Bosnia 'Must Be Consolidated'

LD0810082595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0304 GMT 8 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Anatoliy Lazarev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangor, Maine, 8 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — "The peace that now exists in Bosnia-Herzegovina must be consolidated and further progress must be made," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said here on 7 October. During an improvised news conference on the runway of the international airport in Bangor after his meeting with U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, the head of the Russian Government said: "I informed the U.S. vice president of our decision to supply gas to this region on Saturday. The supply of gas settles many issues to a large extent, because there is a very difficult situation there now. I think that this will also contribute to preventing further bloodshed and bombing raids there."

Grachev Comments on Bosnian Peace Plan

LD0910141395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1338 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GENEVA, October 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev left Geneva for home on Monday. He held negotiations with his U.S. counterpart William Perry here on Sunday. The meeting confirmed the allegiance of Moscow and Washington to the development of equal relations of partners. The meeting showed that despite differences on a number of serious international problems both countries continue to give preference to a dialogue, not to confrontation. This creates a good basis for the summit of Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton to be held in Hyde Park, New York, in a fortnight.

Before taking a plane to Moscow, the Russian minister remarked to ITAR-TASS about the importance of the arrangement on the basic principles of Russia's participation in the future peacekeeping operations in Bosnia. It was decided that the operation will not be that of NATO only.

The ministers suggested to the presidents that it be called the operation of forces for observing the peace agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The fact that NATO is not mentioned in the title means an equal approach to all the participants — Russia, member-countries of the North Atlantic Alliance and other countries concerned.

A Russian military delegation lead by Colonel-General Leontiy Shevtsov will shortly be sent to NATO headquarters to participate in the operation's planning. The outstanding questions, above all those of commanding and financing the operation, will be resolved during the consultations.

From October 23, Russia and the United States will be conducting in the U.S. territory military exercises to drill joint participation in the peacekeeping mission.

The talks in Geneva lasting for many hours enabled the chiefs of Russia's and of the United States military agencies to discuss such complex questions as NATO's eastward expansion, prospects for the Partnership for Peace programme and the question of flank reductions under the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe.

Ivanov on Moscow's Role in Bosnian Cease-Fire

LD0910202995 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Interview with Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov, Russian deputy foreign minister, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Igor Sergeyevich, the U.S. side once again seems a bit ahead of Russia, or so it looks, stating that it was they that helped to achieve a certain cease-fire from 10 October in the Bosnian conflict.

[Ivanov] There were two messages from President Yeltsin to President Milosevic and President Izetbegovic. Prime Minister Chernomyrdin received Prime Minister Silajdzic specially to discuss this issue, and there it was said that the resumption of gas deliveries is precisely one of the conditions that an agreement on cease-fire be reached. Thus, Russia's contribution is considerable.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion of Grachev's recent visit and his meeting with the NATO leadership, where he then read out, smiling quite cheerfully, that a decision was reached that one of the Russian generals will participate in planning peacekeeping military operations in Bosnia. Was that just a polite gesture, and should one regard it as such, or was it the actual beginning of something bigger?

[Ivanov] Well, after holding a peace conference, and we count on holding a peace conference in the near future if there are no new provocations like NATO's air strikes, great efforts will be needed, again over about a year, to implement the accords reached at the peace conference. For this purpose, in particular from the military standpoint, multinational forces will be set up. Intense consultations between all sides are now in progress concerning what forces these must be, what kind of mandate it must be, what their composition should be. To discuss these issues a meeting was held in Geneva between our defense ministers with the agreement of our presidents.

[Correspondent] In the fighting in Bosnian Serbia the main question is whether this state will be an independent one. What answer can be given to this question?

[Ivanov] All the participants of the conflict signed a document that this will be Bosnia, a state with internationally acknowledged borders. But it will consist of two...[pauses] So to speak, a union of two formations with sufficiently broad autonomy. One will be a Muslim

Croatian federation, and the other will be a Serbian republic.

[Correspondent] Igor Sergeyevich, what statements can one expect in the next few days, say, from Russia, the United States, and other members of the Contact Group?

[Ivanov] I think there will be a very important meeting of the Contact Group in Moscow.

[Correspondent] What are the dates?

[Ivanov] I think it will be held at the beginning of next week.

[Correspondent] Are there any principle changes in the positions of the sides?

[Ivanov] Our task now is to put pressure on all the conflicting sides so as to reach agreement on all the remaining questions and not to permit violation of the agreements already reached. You know that there are cases of violation both on the battlefield and with political statements being made that go back on previously reached accords. The task is now not to let the fragile balance that has been attained break down.

Foreign Ministry Firmly Backs Bosnia Cease-Fire

LD0910181195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1721 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic coresopondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Russia is firmly in favor of the cease-fire agreement in Bosnia coming into force from 0000 on 10 October, and is counting on the sides observing it rigorously. This is what the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement, received by ITAR-TASS today, says.

The document calls attention to the statement of Russian President Boris Yeltsin on 5 October concerning readiness to resume Russia's gas deliveries to Bosnia. "Thus, says the Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement, there are no political obstacles to a universal cease-fire agreement coming into force immediately in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs statement stresses that the Russian side "was ready from the very first to immediately discuss with Sarajevo plenipotentiaries all technical issues connected with the resumption of gas deliveries." Unfortunately, says the document, the Bosnian delegation arrived in Moscow only this evening for the relevant talks.

B-H Muslims Said To Sell Missiles to Iran Via Russia

LD0910163395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1433 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian war department has neither confirmed nor denied reports of American missile complexes being redirected from Bosnia to Iran. As the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today at the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, deliveries of American-made updated Stinger antiaircraft rockets, and also Tow-2 and Hellfire guided antitank rockets to the Bosnian Muslims — despite the embargo on supplies of weapons and combat equipment to the conflicting sides in the Balkans — has long been no secret. It is not excluded here that some of this equipment may quite possibly be sent on to Iran in exchange for ammunition, in particular cartridges for sub-machine guns and machine guns of Soviet manufacture, which NATO and the United States cannot give the Muslim formations, but of which ammunition Tehran has much, having organized mass production of it for the needs of its own army.

The war department stressed, however, that such exchange might be of a covert nature, and no country in the world would start publicizing its "successes" in such barter deals. For Iran in the present historical conditions it is advantageous to learn in detail of the American combat equipment in order to organize its own production of both antitank and antiaircraft complexes.

The military experts declined to give direct answers regarding the possible forwarding to Iran of one out of three Tomahawk cruise missiles that failed to explode on Bosnian Serb positions. Moreover, reports confirm that the Iranians gained access to the electronic components of one of the downed reconnaissance aircraft belonging to the United States. It can be assumed that the Russian experts' reticence was due to the fact that the media are asserting that valuable trophies are being forwarded to the Iranian town of Rasht allegedly from Russian territory.

So far the authorities of Iran and the United States and the NATO command are not reacting to the reports that have been appearing, which gives analysts reason to suppose there is no smoke without fire.

Grachev on Peacekeeping, Relations With U.S.

LD0810143595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0730 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Interview of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev by Tatyana Panova in Moscow; date not given; from the "Aty-Baty" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Panova] Pavel Sergeyevich, our state has always been regarded as one of the strongest in the world, and the Russian Armed Forces bear great responsibility for maintaining peace. Let us speak about this. Tell us about our functions and our peacekeeping abroad.

[Grachev] Our state is at present one of the most powerful in the world, and our peacekeepers are indeed at present carrying out a great deal of work in various regions both of the former Soviet Union and also in what we now call the near abroad.

[Panova] The Soviet press always presented our Soviet Armed Forces as great peacekeepers. Is it now possible to consider that the Russian Armed Forces are carrying out peacekeeping work to the same degree?

[Grachev] Well, I would say bluntly that there were no peacekeeping subunits in the former Soviet Armed Forces.

[Panova] There were no such subunits, but we fulfilled these functions.

[Grachev] Well, I do not think that we were performing peacekeeping functions. This was shown in Vilnius, Baku, Fergana, and Osh. In my opinion, it was not peacekeeping functions that were carried out in those places. Afghanistan also showed this. The functions there were far from peacekeeping ones. Now with the creation of the Russian Army we even have subunits, formations, and units that are designated to carry out peacekeeping functions. Even if it has not been for long, a large number of our personnel — the largest number in the world — have been performing peacekeeping functions in various regions. We are keeping opposing sides apart and not siding with one of them and annihilating a mass of the people as happened in Afghanistan, which we now, of course, forget. We are not striking peaceful civilians with shovels, as happened in Tbilisi. We are not shooting and killing peaceful civilians, as occurred in Vilnius. We are not killing people, as happened during the conflicts in Fergana and Osh. Certainly no-one can find fault with our peacekeepers and claim that instead of peacekeeping duties they are performing as killers, robbers, looters, and so forth. [Grachev ends] [passage omitted]

[Grachev] Our peacekeeping forces are carrying out the task of maintaining peace in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. Quite considerable forces have been gathered there, especially in Galskiy district. At present, there are two motorized infantry battalions of the Transcaucasian group of forces, one motorized battalion from the Volga Military District, and the 345th Parachute Regiment short of one battalion.

The task looks very simple at first glance, but at the same time it is nerve-racking, let us say, especially for the officers — well, for the men, too. The task is simple: to block both banks of the Inguri River and secure a 20-km safety zone, which makes it possible for our subunits on both sides to prevent both Abkhaz and Georgian armed formations from entering the safety zone. The second task is to head off a fresh large-scale fighting between the Georgians and the Abkhazians. The third task is to monitor jointly with OSCE representatives the implementation of the agreement on returning refugees, including to Galskiy district — at least to that 20-km zone, as the first step.

We realize, of course, that these are passive tasks, but under the agreement and the peacekeeping mandate we cannot, for example, start disarming or,indeed, eliminating military formations.

[Panova] Are our servicemen being killed in the Abkhaz conflict?

[Grachev] Fortunately, there have been no casualties for quite a long time, neither dead nor wounded, although half a year ago there were cases of personnel being killed or wounded. As a rule, people were being wounded by the mines laid mainly near the Inguri River during the Georgian-Abkhaz war. We believe such large numbers of peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone are unnecessary. The forces deployed there can, in effect, conduct real combat operations. However, no such tasks are being assigned and will not be assigned. I have heard recently that the Abkhaz side allegedly has the impression that the Georgian and the Russian Armed Forces could conduct joint military operations on Abkhaz territory. This is not true, of course. This is a myth. No such military operations are being planned, at least there will be no combat operations on the Russian part.

We are now considering a major reduction of the peacekeeping forces in the region and the withdrawal of at least three battalions to their places of permanent deployment in the near future. We will only leave necessary observation posts, which will monitor the situation and report it to appropriate organizations.

Another thing is that we may in addition start — and a decision has already been adopted on this by our government — to use some of the freed peacekeeping forces to supervise the restoration of the railway. Their functions will be simple ones. First of all, before we go over to these functions, a political decision is needed. That is, an agreement needs to be signed on the restoration of the railway between Georgia and Russia by Russian forces. This, of course, also involves the consent of the Abkhaz authorities. Particularly on the Abkhaz sector of the railway there is a need for our subunits to perform protective functions during the restoration of the railway, especially the destroyed bridge across the Inguri River. The fact is that we are not ruling out the possibility of various provocations against our rail workers. We would be pleased to carry out this task, especially in Ghali district. Even by our very presence there we are to some extent bringing peace. The people trust us. The refugees on both sides are flocking to where the Russian soldiers are located and trying to reach their abandoned homes. [Grachev ends] [passage omitted]

[Panova] Pavel Sergeyevich, has this sending of our peacekeeping contingent to the Georgian-Abkhaz border been justified?

[Grachev] And to the Georgian-Ossetian border?

[Panova] Yes, and to the Georgian-Ossetian border.

[Grachev] Of course it is justified. Had we not taken up position between the warring sides, I am sure that they would still be shedding blood and there would have now been an enormous number of victims. However, when the various sides saw the Russian peacekeepers, their heads cooled somewhat, of course, the shooting ceased, and in effect the war ended both in the South Ossetia-Georgia area and in this area. It may be a fragile peace, but although this was all achieved by political decisions, it is at a practical level our peacekeepers who have determined the peace at present in the territory of both Abkhazia and South Ossetia. [Grachev ends] [passage omitted]

[Grachev] Two of our battalions are engaged in peacekeeping in the former Yugoslavia, that is in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They are performing their functions very conscientiously. We are always getting good reports from the UN leadership. All those functions with which they have been entrusted are being performed brilliantly, I must say. In the main, these matters are being tackled by the forces of airborne units.

By agreement with the president of the Russian Federation, we are now studying the political aspect of the participation by part of our peacekeeping forces in the operation on maintaining peace jointly with NATO units, which unfortunately are acting on their own but under the aegis of the Security Council of the United Nations. This is certainly our new proposal. According to my information, these proposals are now being considered both at the NATO and UN headquarters.

To give you more details of our proposals for carrying out tasks jointly, under our proposals Russian generals should carry out the command in turn with U.S., with NATO generals, and there should be a mixed staff that will include the Russian and NATO military, and, again, this should be done under the aegis of the United Nations.

This is a new function and I think, if it is approved, it will to a considerable degree ensure security and safe protection of civilians against the parties to the conflict.

[Panova] The Russian side has suspended the U.S.-Russian joint exercises, Peacekeeper-95. Why?

[Grachev] The Russian side has not suspended them. The point is that on 22-23 September the last reconnaissance was to take place in the exercise zone in the United States to finally come to an agreement on all the issues. We carefully looked at the personnel proposed for the reconnaissance and at our economic possibilities and reached a conclusion that there was no need to have another reconnaissance because all the issues had already been resolved, all maps prepared, all the subjects studied, the composition of participants decided, and the training points defined. Therefore, it is just a waste of money. We cannot afford it at present.

As for the exercises themselves, which are to take place at the end of October this year, the question is still on the agenda. You know that it was specified in the bilateral agreement between Russia and the United States. The final decision whether to hold these exercises or not will of course be taken by the supreme commander-in-chief, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin.

At our recent meeting in Sochi, I reported to him. He is thinking about it now. When he decides, he will announce whether we will take part or not.

Why does this decision need to be taken? There are good reasons for taking part or not taking part in them. The thing is Russia is a powerful state that has a good army and great economic, human, and other resources. In principle, Russia is to be reckoned with. [Grachev ends] [passage omitted]

[Grachev] I must say straight away that the United States is playing a leading role in the decisions taken by the North Atlantic Alliance. It does not seem to be quite right. If we indeed want to be partners in a real honest way and resolve this matter successfully, we should trust each other and listen to each other's opinion.

[Panova] What measures should the Russian side take? Is it going to take any measures so that we are reckoned with more, and what does this depend on?

[Grachev] Well, you know stereotypes of the Cold War are still alive. There is still no full belief that we have become different people and that our state is following the democratic path of development. We are being treated with some suspicion. What should be done? First, our politicians should explain more often and in a louder voice our position, foreign policy, and attempts to settle all these conflict issues. We have a very timid voice both at the United Nations and at NATO, when we are invited there. We should be more active. In particular, this concerns the Foreign Ministry and also the Defense Ministry and other state structures that are dealing with the outside world. This is the main point, in my view.

Under no circumstances should there be strong-arm pressure. Under no circumstances should there be intimidation. This will be a deviation to a considerable degree from what we have already achieved and from the agreements that we have already signed. This should not happen under any circumstances. Yes, there is a difference of opinion. Yes, there are contradictory opinions. But one should have patience and listen to each other. But under no circumstances should this affect the state of our bilateral relations. [Grachev ends] [passage omitted]

[Grachev] At the present time, conscript lads are serving in all the areas where we are carrying out peacekeeping work, having volunteered to carry out these functions. As far as peacekeeping functions in Yugoslavia are concerned, there are only contract servicemen there, whom we choose provisionally by select commissions and subsequently train for a longer period at the Dubrovichi training center outside Ryazan. Then we send them on rotation as and when necessary. We only send volunteers, young people up to the age of 35 who have already served in the Army.

[Panova] What about the officers?

[Grachev] Officers, or warrant officers, will serve where they are ordered to do so. The Army does have a boss, fortunately. [smiles]

NATO Expansion Could Prompt Czech, Polish Targeting

MK0710144295 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Oct 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Igor Korotchenko and Mikhail Karpov: "Russian Nuclear Missiles Will Be Retargeted at Czech Republic and Poland. Such a Proposal Is Being Prepared by RF Armed Forces General Staff in the Event of NATO's Real Expansion Toward East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The joining of the North Atlantic union by countries of Eastern Europe, where the first in line are the Czech Republic and Poland, which have declared their readiness to deploy on their territories tactical nuclear weapons from NATO arsenals, would entail extremely negative consequences from the point of view of their security, a high-ranking officer of the Main Directorate for Operations [GOU] of the Russian Federation [RF] Armed Forces General Staff, who did not want to be identified, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's observer. In his words, the reaction to such a development could be tough retaliatory measures, including revision of some provisions of the Russian military doctrine and the nuclear deterrent policy followed by Moscow. The General Staff intends to submit a package of corresponding proposals that are currently being elaborated for the president's consideration and is counting on Boris Yeltsin's consent in principle to their subsequent implementation.

"The statements being heard from Brussels about the peaceful nature of NATO's eastward expansion will not delude us; we know their price only too well," stated the GOU representative. Among Russian military analysts, few doubt that our former Warsaw Treaty allies are prepared to place their military facilities at the disposal of the North Atlantic union immediately, even if they are not members of the bloc, in the event the situation in the European theater of military operations worsens. The RF Defense Ministry knows that specialists of the U.S. Army geodetic service have already carried out the necessary work and assessed, for the use of NATO joint armed forces, the airfield and road networks of not only Poland, but also of the Baltic countries.

The General Staff proposals envisage that in the event the Czech Republic and Poland are integrated into the North Atlantic union's political and military structures and NATO nuclear weapons are deployed there, the coordinates of targets found on Czech and Polish territory will be entered in the flight plans of Russian ICBM's. In practical terms, and in line with existing concepts, this means that in passing from a theoretically possible military conflict between the RF and NATO to the nuclear stage, the sides would at first exchange limited missile strikes at deployed troops of the first operational echelon without committing to action the main strategic forces. What can this entail for Prague and Warsaw? Easy to imagine!

Among the other proposals there is one on accelerating the process of concluding a military-political union between Russia and Belarus and creating, on its basis, a powerful coalition group of forces along the border with Poland and Lithuania that would be joined by a single operational plan with a main striking force in the form of the Russian divisions in the Kaliningrad special rayon.

The Russian Federation's withdrawal from the CFE Treaty is also quite possible, following which plans call for forming new tank and motorized rifle divisions in the Leningrad Military District and concentrating them along the border with Latvia and Estonia.

A REUTER report datelined Thursday [5 October] on NATO's intention to postpone the process of the bloc's expansion until the end of 1996 caused a considerable stir in Russian political circles. According to a report coming in from the alliance's Brussels headquarters on Friday, NATO defense ministers meeting in Williamsburg (Virginia) could not have made any decisions on either freezing or accelerating the bloc's eastward expansion. No one, naturally, takes away from them the right to discuss the question, but it is the North Atlantic Council at the foreign ministerial level that has the decisive say as a rule. This forum will take place in Brussels on 5 December.

Making the question on expanding the alliance dependent on the dates of parliamentary and presidential elections in Russia has never been discussed on an official level, no matter how attractive that would appear to certain circles. A different thing should be obvious. The clear attempts to play a cuckoo nesting game [igry v kukushonka], which essentially consists of trying to force out a rival from a space that, according to your convictions, belongs to no one but you, with both sides trying to succeed, are being stepped up before Pavel Grachev's meeting with William Perry in Switzerland tomorrow.

It would have been reckless for Moscow in this situation to pass up the opportunity to bring home not only to the leaders of East European countries eager to finally get free of the bear hug as soon as possible, but also to their publics, that finding themselves in NATO's wind rose means not only gaining but also losing in a security sense.

Pointing to the absence of a realization of the obvious nature of the latter fact is, in particular, the reaction of Warsaw's conservative quarters to the possibility of moving up the date of Poland's admission to NATO. The alliance is being criticized for paying too much attention to its relations with Russia to the detriment of the interests of possible new members of the bloc.

The only thing one can go along with is the argument that mistaken is the view of those analysts who have a naive faith that Moscow's opposition to NATO's eastward expansion will weaken with time. On the contrary, everything points to the fact that Russia, as is its wont, wishes to gain time to step up its protest in proportion to the weakening of its influence should its opponents' plans succeed.

Acting both in the West and East European sectors, at that. After all, one cannot fail to see that the more countries that join the alliance, the more problems it will have, including crisis-prone zones inside NATO. As if it were not enough that for decades it has had to rack its brains over relations between Greece and Turkey, let's add to that additional similar pairs. Would it not be better to go and look for levers to end the conflicts between current bloc members or, God forbid, within them?

As for Russia's military men, Andrey Kozyrev hastened in Murmansk yesterday to deny them the laurels in the standoff with their Western counterparts. Their "sharp attacks," in his words, are beside the point. "This is, rather, a victory for Russian diplomacy," the RF Foreign Ministry head stressed. One cannot but note, however, that dividing the laurels is a thing of the future. A distant future to all appearances.

P.S.

The man on duty at the RF Defense Ministry press center, where we phoned for official confirmation or denial of the Russian General Staff's plans learned of by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, limited himself to the laconic formulation "no comment." Theoretically, as has become clear, such a commentary could be obtained after the usual bureaucratic procedure, consisting of filing a request with the head of the RF Defense Ministry Information Directorate. At the moment, these duties are being temporary fulfilled by Colonel Yuriy Mamchur. There would perhaps be no need for any letter, because such information could not pass unnoticed by the leadership of any government department, the power department included.

Russian Help to Cuban Nuclear Powerplant To Resume

LD0910120395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1143 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 9 (ITAR-TASS) — A Russian-Cuban memorandum on cooperation in a peaceful use of atomic energy is expected to be signed during an official visit of First Vice Premier of Russia Oleg Soskovets to Cuba, which begins on October 10, a spokesman for the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy told TASS today.

The memorandum will envisage the finishing of the construction of a nuclear power plant (NPP) in Juragua, which was suspended some time ago. Nuclear reactors of the VVER-440 type and a major part of other equipment were delivered there from the Soviet Union. The building of the NPP was suspended because of financial problems. At present Moscow and Havana are working on ways to attract major Western firms to the implementation of the project. A number of big West European companies, including Siemens, have already expressed readiness to take part in the project. The U.S. Congress is the staunchest opponent of the construction of the Juragua NPP.

The ministry's spokesman said that Soskovets would discuss in Cuba a possibility of the creation of an international consortium, which would finish the construction of the Juragua NPP.

Russian Consortium To Develop Iraqi Oil Field

LD0910211595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1951 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 9 (PIA-INTERFAX) — A Russian consortium, which includes the LUKoil oil company as well as the Zarubezhneft and Mashinoimport foreign trade companies, and the Iraqi Oil Ministry intend to sign a contract for the development of West Kurna, a rich oil field in southern Iraq, by the end of 1995.

Zarubezhneft General Director Oleg Popov told INTERFAX's Petroleum Information Agency that during the preliminary agreement on the issue was reached during the visit to Moscow by an Iraqi Oil Ministry delegation headed by Deputy Oil Minister Fasis A. Shakhin [name as received].

According to Popov, during the talks between the consortium and the Iraqi delegation the sides discussed various provisions of the contract, to be based on the principle of production sharing.

He believes that the results of the talks will allow for the signing of the contract if not by the end of this year then by March of 1996, for which one or two more rounds of talks will be necessary.

The consortium financed by LUKoil (70%), Zarubezhneft (15%) and Mashinoimport (15%) intends to develop the second phase of the West Kurna oil field, with estimated deposits of 600-900 million tonnes of oil, after the U.N. lifts its embargo. The contract's cost is estimated at between $2 billion and $7 billion.

The development of the first phase of the oil field, worth about $280 million, was carried out by Mashinoimport before the U.N. imposed sanctions on Iraq. By the time an embargo was imposed, the works had been completed 60%.

Federation Council Issues Appeal Over Detained Airmen

MM1010101595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Oct 95 p 4

[Statement No. 605-1 by the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council in Connection With the Detention by Force of the Crew of a Russian Aircraft in Qandahar (Islamic State of Afghanistan), dated 4 October 1995, Moscow, and signed by the Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 3 August 1995 the "Taleban Movement" Afghan opposition grouping intercepted in Islamic State of Afghanistan airspace a Russian aircraft belonging to the "Aerostan" airline, bound for Kabul. The Russian aircraft landed in the city of Qandahar, where the seven crew members, citizens of the Russian Federation, are still being held, in effect as hostages. Moreover, the deteriorating health of one of the members of the crew of the Russian aircraft is worrying. He is currently in the local International Red Cross Committee hospital.

The "Aerostan" airline's carrying out of a commission by the Afghan national airline, "Arian," was not agreed with Russian state organs, so it cannot be regarded as interference by the Russian Federation in the internal affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Russia is firmly following a line of noninterference in the confrontation inside Afghanistan and is not supporting any of the Afghan groupings.

The Taleban action is a gross violation of the norms of international law and humanitarian principles. In the negotiations the Taleban movement is using delaying tactics.

The Federation Council urges the Russian Federation president and Russian Federation Government to use all possible means to ensure the speediest settlement of the incident involving the Russian aircraft belonging to the "Aerostan" airline and the release of our compatriots.

The Federation Council appeals to international organizations and parliaments of states capable of influencing the Taleban movement to use all their influence to bring about a successful conclusion of the negotiations for the release of the Russian citizens.

[Signed] Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council
Moscow, 4 October 1995

Fate of IL-76 Crew Discussed in UAE

LD1010082495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2044 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Anchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sharjah (the United Arab Emirates), 9 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — This evening the Russian delegation, which was taking part in the talks with the leadership of the Afghan Taleban movement, returned from Kandahar to the UAE town of Sharjah. Timur Akulov, adviser to the president of Tatarstan, who is heading the delegation, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that in the presence of representatives from the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference Mullah Hasan, the governor of Kandahar province, who occupies one of the leading posts in the movement, handed him a list of 6,800 Afghans, who, as Taleban asserts, were taken to the republics of the former USSR during the Soviet armed invasion of Afghanistan (earlier Taleban promised to present a list containing 60,000 names — note of ITAR-TASS correspondent). According to T. Akulov, on 10 October he will deliver this list to Moscow so that it can be studied and a response from the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry to the leadership of the Taleban movement can be drawn up.

The head of the delegation noted that the crew of the IL-76 aircraft decided not to go on hunger strike as the demands put forward earlier were met: The Russian delegation in its full composition arrived in Kandahar and the talks with the participation of representatives from the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference were held. T. Akulov described the health of the pilots as fairly normal; however, he noted that their psychological state leaves much to be desired. For the time being none of the crew needs urgent medical attention.

Japanese Envoy Visits Sakhalin for First Time

OW1010045595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0426 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Oct. 10 (KYODO) — Japanese Ambassador to Moscow Koji Watanabe visited Russia's Far East island of Sakhalin for three days earlier this month, in the first such visit by a Japanese envoy since World War II, Japanese Embassy officials said Monday [9 October].

Previous Japanese ambassadors have paid no official visits to Sakhalin out of concern that the former Soviet Union and present-day Russia might regard it as Japan's acknowledgement of Moscow's control over the island.

Japan gave up territorial rights over the southern half of Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands in the 1951 San Francisco peace treaty. Sakhalin's southern half and the Kurils were under Japanese rule before World War II.

Japan has not recognized the Soviet Unions' or Russia's ownership of southern Sakhalin, saying the peace treaty does not specify who will have sovereignty over it.

Further, Tokyo has long called for the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido — Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan Islands and the Habomai group of islets.

A senior official at the Japanese Embassy said the ambassador thinks the visit does not directly relate to the territorial dispute and does not mean Japan recognizes Russia's territorial rights over all of Sakhalin.

Deputy Foreign Minister Concludes Visit to Egypt

LD0910101695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1642 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Antonov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Muhammad Musa expressed a high opinion of Russia'a growing role in Africa. He said this during a meeting with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov, who concluded his two-day visit to Cairo today.

Musa took an interest in the outcome of Kolokolov's tour of the countries of the Horn of Africa, which Kolokolov had completed prior to his arrival to the Egyptian capital. Musa noted a similarity between Moscow's and Cairo's attitudes toward developments which take place there. The Egyptian minister suggested that Russia should coordinate its actions as far as Africa and other world regions are concerned, since as a successor of the Soviet Union and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, a renascent Russia must find its honorable place in the process of resolving difficult problems on various continents.

Boris Kolokolov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that his meetings at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry were held as part of the protocol of consultations between the Russian and Egyptian foreign ministries signed last March during Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Cairo. The protocol provides for exchanges of view on regional problems at various diplomatic levels.

The problems of Africa were the main subject of the consultations this time, in view of the fact that Kolokolov as a special envoy of the Russian President Boris Yeltsin has just completed his trip to the three states of the Horn of Africa — Djibouti, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Commenting on the outcome of the visit, Kolokolov said the trip reflected the intensification of the policy pursued by Russia in Africa. "The conception of our actions in this sphere of foreign policy was approved by the Russian president in 1994 and we are implementing it consistently," the deputy minister said.

Delegation Holds Trade, Economic Talks in Sweden

LD0710121295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 7 Oct 95

[By Nikolay Bukolov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stockholm, October 7 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia and Sweden have a large potential for developing ties in the trade and economic sphere. This was the main conclusion of a regular meeting of the Russian-Swedish committee of observers on trade and economic issues. The meeting took place in Stockholm.

The Russian delegation was headed by First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays and the Swedish delegation was headed by Minister of Foreign Trade and European Affairs Mats Hellstrom.

The delegations discussed a wide range of issues, including Swedish investments in Russia's economy. For the purpose of boosting bilateral ties and Swedish investment, Russia and Sweden will establish a joint investment fund which will finance industrial, transport and trade projects and the Russian privatisation programme.

Sweden asked Russia to appoint a representative to whom Swedish companies could apply to settle problems.

The Swedish delegation informed the Russian team of the preparation for the Council of Baltic States meeting due to be held on Gottland Island next May. Russia supported the idea to hold the forum.

The delegations also discussed settling Russia's commercial debt to Swedish companies.

At a seminar held in the Swedish Export Council, Russian officials briefed Sweden's business circles on current economic reforms in Russia and its foreign policy.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Appoints Gaydanov Acting Prosecutor-General

LD0810123995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1228 GMT 8 Oct 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 8 (ITAR-TASS) — President Boris Yeltsin issued a Decree on Sunday, relieving Aleksey Ilyushenko of the duties of Acting Prosecutor-General of Russia and, in another Decree, entrusted those duties to Oleg Gaydanov for the time being, Presidential staff sources told ITAR-TASS on Sunday.

Prior to his appointment, Gaydanov has been Deputy Prosecutor-General.

"The President's decision to relieve Acting Prosecutor-General Aleksey Ilyushenko is not unexpected, since Boris Yeltsin expressed dissatisfaction with Ilyushenko's work earlier as well and in public, too," Presidential Press Secretary Sergey Medvedev told ITAR-TASS on Sunday.

"Taking the current situation into account, Ilyushenko sent a letter to the President with a request for resignation. The President views this letter as a civic act which fully accords with the moral and political responsibility which evolves in the new State machinery of Russia," Medvedev said.

The Presidential Press-Secretary drew attention to the fact that in accordance of the Presidential Decree Oleg Gaydanov has been appointed Temporarily Acting Prosecutor-General. In keeping with the Russian Constitution, a candidacy for the post is to be presented by Boris Yeltsin soon for the Federation Council's appointment decision.

Kremlin experts believe that it can be concluded from Medvedev's remarks that Yeltsin, in all probability, may suggest not Oleg Gaydanov but some other person as a candidate for the post of Prosecutor-General.

Kovalev: Ilyushenko Resigned 'Too Late'

LD0810184095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 8 (INTERFAX) — Aleksey Ilyushenko's resignation as Russia's prosecutor general is the right, but too late a measure, renown human rights activist Sergey Kovalev told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview Sunday.

Kovalev described Ilyushenko's term in office as one of the most shameful periods in the history of Russian law enforcement.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin relieved Ilyushenko of his duties as prosecutor general by his decree Sunday. He appointed Deputy Prosecutor General Oleg Gaydanov to replace Ilyushenko by the same decree.

Commenting on Gaydanov's appointment, Kovalev said he did not know him "either as an investigator, or as a prosecutor."

"However, Gaydanov's belonging to the prosecution system, unqualified and very bad to put it mildly, already causes fears. We inherited our present prosecution from the Soviet system," he added.

"Self-controlled bodies should never be created," Kovalev said. He believes that there are reasonable forces inside the Prosecutor General's Office, capable of doing away with its past.

According to Kovalev, Russia has many lawyers, both theorists and practical workers, who could head the Prosecutor General's Office.

Gaydar, Zyuganov Comment on Appointment

LD0810183695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 8 (INTERFAX) — Russia's Choice-Allied Democrats leader Yegor Gaydar welcomed the presidential decision to relieve Aleksey Ilyushenko of his duties as Russia's prosecutor general.

Gaydar told INTERFAX Sunday that the decree seemed right to him, though "a bit late."

Gaydar said his latest tete-a-tete meeting with President Yeltsin had touched on a candidate to succeed Ilyushenko. However, he declined to name who he had recommended to Yeltsin.

Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov told INTERFAX Sunday that he did not see anything new about Ilyushenko's resignation, since he had long been rejected by the Federation Council.

"The presidential decision seems not only too late, but also initially wrong," he said referring to Yeltsin's twice presenting Ilyushenko in the Federation Council.

Zyuganov said the country should have as prosecutor general a "highly professional lawyer with a strong personality and capable of properly fighting crime in the state which keeps turning into a criminal."

Yeltsin Edict To Tighten Controls Over State Property

MK0710121995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 3 Oct p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Bekker: "The President Has Stood Up for the Property Still Possessed by the State. The Famous No. 226 Edict Has a 'Little Brother' Now"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One can only feel sorry that Boris Yeltsin signed the edict "On the Procedure for Making Decisions on the Management and Sale of Federally-Owned Shares" as late as yesterday. In principle, the government has made its final judgment on the enterprises whose state-owned shares are either to be sold this year or to be offered up competitively in pledge for a credit to the government. There remained several thousand enterprises, though, whose federal shares were not to be privatized ahead of schedule. By special decision of the authorities, however, these shares went to holding and closed-end joint-stock companies that were, in fact, controlled by ministerial and departmental bureaucrats who failed to fit in with the market economy.

According to Aleksandr Livshits [presidential economic aide], who held a press conference yesterday, such decisions "were of an unordered kind and were growing into an avalanche." Edict No. 986 is meant to put an end to the "stealing away [of property]." The essence of Boris Yeltsin's verdict is covered under three items. One of them says that any decision by the government or other executive bodies on matters concerning the management or other use of federal shares may be made only by presidential edict. Second, such an edict may only be issued after a governmental decision in the form of a decree. And third, the transfer of shares in pledge for a credit to the government (the banking consortium's scheme) should be based on the principles of openness and competitiveness.

The form and essence of Edict No. 968 is very similar to the idea and structure of the famous Edict No. 226 "On Strengthening Financial Discipline in the Execution of the Federal Budget." That February edict also provided for a double line of defense against lobbyists' attacks on expense and revenue items of the budget. In other words, one cannot "chop off" anything from the budget without the president's approval, whereas the president's approval cannot be received without a preceding decision by the government. The likeness of the two edicts proved so obvious that Mr. Livshits called Edict No. 986 "Edict No. 226's little brother."

The aide to the president admitted that some loopholes were indeed left under Edict No. 226. Therefore, for instance, 4.5 trillion rubles not stipulated in the budget were sent to provinces as loans. Mr. Livshits said: "No absolute barriers exist. On the whole, however, I do hope that Edict No. 986 will serve its purpose in the same way that Edict No. 226 played its restraining role."

The question remains: Why did Boris Yeltsin not sign this edict at least 10 days earlier? As is known, on 22 September, without the premier's endorsement, the president signed an edict on setting up the "Rossiyskaya Metallurgiya" [Russian metallurgy] joint-stock company, which incorporated 51 percent of the shares of 14 enterprises in this sector. The resulting holding company serves as a good example of how state property is being stolen away by bureaucrats. The holding company, in fact, has provided comfortable seats for top apparatchiks at the Russian State Metallurgy Committee.

In reply to your SEGODNYA correspondent's question about the reason why Edict No. 986 was issued so late, Mr. Livshits said rather reluctantly: "It failed to appear earlier, but better late than never."

Yeltsin Edict Ensures Regions Comply With Constitution

LD0710095995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1610 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 6 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued an edict "On measures to ensure cooperation between the federal bodies of state authority and the bodies of state authority of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation in conducting constitutional-legal reform in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation." An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this today by the head of state's press service.

The document was adopted with the following aims: To ensure that the Constitutions and laws of the republics, the statutes, laws, and other normative legal acts of the territories, regions, cities designated as of federal significance, the autonomous region and autonomous areas of the Russian Federation Constitution comply with federal laws; to ensure cooperation between the federal bodies of authority and the bodies of authority of the constituent parts of the Federation in conducting constitutional-legal reform in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation; to ensure the removal of variances that arise between legislative and executive bodies of authority of the constituent parts of the Federation in adopting normative acts.

In accordance with the edict it is considered impermissable for bodies of state authority of constituent parts of the Russian Federation to violate the Russian Federation

Constitution and federal laws in adopting constitutions, laws, statutes, and other normative legal acts.

It is proposed that bodies of authority of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation remove from their constitutions, laws, statutes, and other normative legal acts any contradictions with the provisions of the Basic Law of the Russian Federation and the federal laws; that they should proceed strictly from the provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution, which enshrine as the basis of the constitutional system Russia's federal structure, which is based on its state integrity, the unity of the system of state authority, a demarcation of subjects of jurisdiction and powers between the federal organs of authority and the organs of authority of the constituent parts of the Federation, and on the equality and self-determination of the peoples in the Russian Federation; it is proposed that, until a federal law on common principles of organizing representative and executive bodies of state authority in the constituent parts of the Federation is issued, they should refrain from adopting normative legal acts establishing principles of organizing and a system for the organs of authority in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

The edict also instructs that a commission be formed under the Russian Federation president on cooperation between the federal bodies of state authority and the bodies of state authority of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation in conducting constitutional-legal reform in the constituent parts of the Russian Federation.

Columnist Praises Yeltsin's Political Acumen, Intuition

MK1010064495 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Bekker: "The President's Basic Instinct"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Boris Yeltsin met with Viktor Chernomyrdin at his dacha. They did not meet in Sochi, which brought about a multitude of alarmed comments and gloomy predictions about the premier's upcoming resignation — rather, not resignation in the literal sense of the word, but a purely Soviet method of "sidelining" a politician by shifting him to a "critical sector of work." Such an "Agriculture Ministry" was the proposal, allegedly made to the premier, to take leave from the Cabinet of Ministers and work full time electioneering as head of the NDR [Russia Is Our Home] bloc. Analysts say that this was the point at which the two leading statesmen parted: Boris Yeltsin was to receive Viktor Chernomyrdin's response upon his return from vacation.

The official report about the nature and results of the dialogue was rather laconic. Meanwhile, presidential Press Secretary Sergey Medvedev told the "Podrobnosti" [Details] TV program that the question of resignation or leave of absence had not been discussed. It is clear why the country's leaders did not return to the pre-Sochi issue and why the president did not raise the question pointblank.

What could Boris Yeltsin have possibly heard from the premier? For Mr. Chernomyrdin to follow the advice to harness himself to the NDR's election cart would mean a political knockout and loss of social prestige. It would have been difficult to interpret otherwise, say, Oleg Soskovets's emergence as premier, even if only in an acting capacity. Viktor Chernomyrdin would have been in a hopeless situation: If the president had pressed his proposal, the premier would have been left with no option but to offer his resignation.

It seems that Boris Yeltsin, who is not a novice on the political scene, clearly understood Viktor Chernomyrdin's situation, his reasoning, and his expected response. This must be why the president did not raise the question, which would have led to most unpredictable consequences. After all, by preserving the status quo, the president has not as yet lost either reform or the country's advance, albeit meandering and painful, toward a democratic order. Neither has Boris Yeltsin lost the parliamentary or presidential elections: There is still time for the positive aspects of economic transformations to reveal themselves more tangibly.

In spite of all the "buts," President Yeltsin's basic instinct has not once failed him in recent years: Russia's historic path of moving away from a totalitarian state. You can be sure that yesterday, too, the president did not make a fatal mistake. Boris Yeltsin is able to listen to his entourage long and attentively; he listens to the opinions of people whose authority he trusts. The president, hopefully, has not lost the ability to separate the transient from the strategic or to distinguish political expediency from historical perspective.

Chernomyrdin Confirms Refusal To Run for Presidency

LD0910172295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin confirmed his intention not to run for Russia's presidency in 1996. He made this statement at his meeting with a group of U.S. businessmen and the Time magazine management in Moscow Monday.

"I work in one team with President Yeltsin, and, as a man, I will never betray a person by putting forward my candidacy to be president from behind his back," he said.

"I will work with the president for as long as I am, for as long as I can," he underlined.

Commentator Predicts Chernomyrdin's Retirement in Dec

MK1010115295 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 7 Oct 95 pp 1, 3

[Analysis by Leonid Brodskiy: "The Premier Will Rest in Winter"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To all appearances, a pause has occurred in the speculations on whether the head of the Russian Government will go on leave and whether this will mean his resignation. On Tuesday [3 October], as usual, the premier met with Boris Yeltsin, after which the press secretaries of both leaders came out with upbeat statements: There will be no leave, let alone resignation. Indeed, why should the premier go on leave (or resign) now? After all, according to some sources in the government, in two months Viktor Chernomyrdin will leave the White House just the same.

Today, when the inner circles of Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin have declared with one voice that all talk of a disagreement between the president and premier has no basis, statements by some well-informed government sources that Viktor Chernomyrdin will remain prime minister only until the State Duma elections look too fantastic. But still....

Speculation about a noticeable cooling of relations between the premier and the president arose from the situation around Boris Yeltsin's traditional autumn leave. During his month-long vacation in Sochi, the president did not once receive Viktor Chernomyrdin. Although officials stated later that no such meeting had in fact been planned, everything looked more than strange. The fact is that the president's vacation occupies a special place in Russia's life.

Wherever the president has taken his vacation — in Sochi or on Lake Valday — crucial economic and political decisions have been made. Russia is an Asian country after all, and personal communication with the "number one man," free from influences by the capital's factions, plays an important role — not only in preparing key decisions, but also in gauging the actual weight of a politician. This is a kind of barometer, which rather accurately points the direction of forthcoming cadre or political changes.

This was so in the summer of 1993, when, having returned from his vacation on the lake in Novgorod Oblast, the president announced an upcoming "fall offensive." This was so last fall, when Viktor Chernomyrdin's trip to Sochi became the triumph of the liberal wing of the government and ended in the adoption of a new budget and, therefore, economic policy. To sum up, this has always been so, except for this year.

This fall a meeting between Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin did not take place.

Virtually all political observers came up with one version to explain the occurrence: Yeltsin is driven by jealousy of the prime minister's growing popularity. This is a really universal explanation despite its certain inadequacy.

It is incomplete because the president, in giving the go-ahead to the creation of a center-right election bloc, was surely aware that participation in the election campaign would call for certain actions from the "Russia Is Our Home" movement's leader designed to boost his own popularity. But, some government officials suppose, the premier overdid it. Rather, Deputy Premier Vitaliy Ignatenko, who was especially taken on as an in-house propaganda guru, overdid it.

One way or another, this September has seen the best manifestation of the trend that emerged last October for a decline in Viktor Chernomyrdin's actual status in the informal hierarchy. The spring surge of economic liberalism and the summer upswing in the premier's popularity, like any exception, only confirm, not disprove, this. Chernomyrdin's weakening has also been accelerated by the fact that he has in effect been left without support in the government. The liberal Chernomyrdin-Chubays-Yasin-Belyayev chain, created last fall, very soon lost its effectiveness and this summer also lost a very important link: Anatoliy Chubays. The "second" first deputy premier's political acumen cannot be denied: By pulling out of "[Russia Is] Our Home" [NDR], he distanced himself from Viktor Chernomyrdin. As for the "first" first deputy premier, Oleg Soskovets, Chernomyrdin fell out with him a year ago, and the relationship between them can be described as a bad peace rather than a good quarrel.

Let us return to the version about Chernomyrdin's imminent resignation, floated by KOMMERSANT-DAILY's source in the government. According to it, the December elections create the most favorable conditions for the president to dismiss the premier. It is not only how successful the election results for the NDR will be: After all, you can only speak definitively either about a complete failure or a complete success. The former presupposes a failure to overcome the 5-percent barrier (which is unlikely) and the latter, that the NDR will win more than 51 percent in parliament (even more unlikely). Everything that lies in between is open to varying interpretation.

On the other hand, the new parliament will await, or rather demand, some goodwill gestures from the president. Why then not use Viktor Chernomyrdin as a sacrifice for the sake of future "constructive" cooperation with the legislative branch?

There are no particular obstacles to this. Moreover, the use, mutatis mutandis, of the December 1992 experience, when in a similar situation Yegor Gaydar was given up, could be more useful considering the ultimate objective of 1996: to extend Boris Yeltsin's term in office by some more or less legal methods. Moreover, reshuffles in the government, as it were, based on the results of parliamentary elections, will arouse far fewer questions in the West than if they occur all of a sudden, for no apparent reason. The question, therefore, is only who will replace Viktor Chernomyrdin and what the successor's status will be: prime minister, acting prime minister or — strange as it may be — presidential chief of staff.

It is quite likely that, if things get to the point of replacing the head of the executive branch, his successor should be looked for among the politicians who visit the provinces only on temporary duty. The fact is that the stage is almost set for reorganizing the government structure. True, so far there has only been scant evidence of what the cabinet will look like: Now there is talk of creating an Industry Ministry, now about restoring the Energy Ministry. How far this corresponds to reality is not so important. What is important is that the government's makeup will be seriously changed and therefore the appearance at the head of the cabinet of an absolutely new person is ruled out: A new man can direct a mechanism that has already been set up and is running — no matter whether smoothly or poorly.

So, assuming this hypothesis, the most suitable figure is Oleg Soskovets, who in fact is preparing, as part of a special commission, proposals on modifying the government structure and who can tailor a government to "suit himself." It is well known that his opinion is heeded in the Kremlin. This year he has replaced Viktor Chernomyrdin as chief visitor to Sochi. According to unconfirmed reports, it was there that Oleg Soskovets persuaded the president not to hurry and to postpone action concerning Viktor Chernomyrdin until late December.

Whether or not this is really so is hard to say. Moreover, sources in the government do not rule out a drastic overhaul of the executive power structure whereby the actual center of power is shifted to the presidential administration. The name of a possible head of Staraya Ploshchad [seat of the presidential administration] is the same: Oleg Soskovets. It is not so important who will occupy the office on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment [seat of the government] in this case: This can be any "sound" economic manager — be he a governor or the director of a not yet quite dead industrial giant.

Zhirinovskiy Comments on Chechnya, Elections, Politics

LD0910212195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1951 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BRYANSK, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, believes that the Chechnya issue can only be solved by force. "However, even that may bring no results in the future," he told Bryansk electors Monday.

"The whole region will be plagued, a Chinese wall will have to be built to seal it off," he added.

According to Zhirinovskiy, the aggravated situation in Chechnya could be used as a pretext to cancel the December 17 parliamentary elections. Another possible pretext could be Belarus' admission to Russia and the announcement of new elections to a joint parliament, likely to be cancelled within another six months.

Nevertheless, Zhirinovskiy hoped that the elections to the State Duma will be held as planned.

Commenting on the internal political situation in Russia, he underlined that ethnic differences were the cause for continuing tensions and conflicts. "Today there are no states, except for Yugoslavia, where there would be ethnic-based pressure," he added.

According to Zhirinovskiy, the state should control up to 70% of Russia's economy. The foreign policy should be "befitting," he remarked. However, Russia is obediently following the U.S. instead of trading with India, Iran, Iraq and Libya, he added.

Zhirinovskiy left Bryansk for Kursk on the same day.

Daily Views Duma Speaker Rybkin's Political Future

MK0710121395 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Yuliy Lebedev: "Ivan Rybkin, a Political Phenomenon. The Duma's Present Session Will Be Decisive for the Speaker"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ivan Petrovich Rybkin has recently been keeping Russian political scientists rather busy. While the slow but sure drift of the Duma speaker from the opposition toward the president can be given a quite rational (although wounding for Mr. Rybkin) explanation, the story of the Rybkin-created "center-left bloc" is full of unsolved mysteries. It seems obvious that the Duma speaker quietly sabotaged and in the end messed up the president's very important assignment, but — instead of falling into well-deserved disfavor — he appears likely to be in for a new promotion. There are rumors in the Duma, citing "informed people in Rybkin's closest entourage," that Yeltsin is about to make him foreign minister or a deputy premier or even to entrust him with heading the government.

It can be reasonably supposed that his secure position in the president's entourage is due not only to Ivan Rybkin's post ([Federation Council Chairman Vladimir] Shumeyko has incomparably less "weight" on the "Kremlin scale") but also to the fact that he has some high-level patrons. According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's information, Aleksandr Korzhakov, head of the Presidential Security Service, can be regarded as the first and principal one. It was precisely his idea "to give shelter to" a disgraced oppositionist and bring him into "the Kremlin elite." Another new Rybkin acquaintance — Pavel Borodin, the presidential administration's business manager, later favored with an honorary place among the top dozen candidates of the "center-left bloc" — also proved extremely useful to Rybkin. Rybkin's membership in the Security Council and the president's Personnel Policy Council helped him overcome the dogmatism of an opposition mentality and perceive the depths of political diplomacy.

According to one of Rybkin's former comrades in arms, "it was not so long ago that the speaker used to refer harshly and quite unequivocally to the president and his role in the October [1993] events; now, however, he 'stiffens'" if someone speaks disrespectfully about Yeltsin in his presence.

This notwithstanding, his pleasant manners and inborn tact permitted Rybkin, until quite recently, to maintain decent relations with most of the Parliamentary factions. The fact that a person faithful to the president is on friendly terms with Mikhail Lapshin and the entire Agrarian Party was an important stimulus in launching the whole "center-left project." At the same time, Rybkin was in no way burning with a desire to "roll up his sleeves" and immediately embark on party development. The speaker merely expressed his readiness to receive under his command a "full-fledged" bloc that had already taken shape. The president's "openhearted" slip of the tongue about a "two-wing party of power" messed up all of these plans.

While in the presidential entourage Rybkin's position still remains secure and unshakable, his present situation in the Duma is fraught with considerable trouble. Hardly will anyone disagree that Rybkin is not destined to retain his post in the new Duma (it will not be that easy for him to get there in the first place). Once this is so, parliamentary leaders, deputies, and, finally, many of his staffers will no longer need the Duma speaker. All this is happening, however, at the moment when the Duma is about to consider a vote of no confidence in the government, impeachment of the president, and the draft state budget. It looks as if Rybkin's role in all of these most interesting games and battles could be reduced to a minimum.

Equally, the speaker's prospects can hardly be improved by the universally forecast failure of his bloc in the upcoming election. Base ingratitude is certainly by no means characteristic of Boris Yeltsin. How high, however, will be the chair offered? The post of chairman of an as yet nonexistent State Council looks rather ephemeral, whereas Oleg Lobov is in no hurry to leave the Security Council chairman's office. After Sergey Shakhray's possible resignation, a deputy premier's post in the government becomes vacant, but one would be a shortsighted person to take this office. In the past few weeks, there was a great deal of talk that if the Duma, inflamed with a righteous electoral anger, succeeded in dethroning Chernomyrdin, Rybkin could be appointed acting premier. According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's information, such a project is indeed "rumored" in the Kremlin corridors, but, along with supporters, it has influential antagonists, too.

One thing is clear: The opening parliamentary session will be decisive for Ivan Petrovich Rybkin's political future.

Agrarians Attack PRES Proposal for Referendum on Land Law

MM1010091695 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 7 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "'No' to Land Referendum"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "Agrarian Party of Russia" deputies' faction has issued a statement in connection with the decision of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord [PRES] to begin collecting signatures in support of an all-Russia referendum on land at the same time as the State Duma elections 17 December 1995. PRES leader S. Shakhray is proposing to put the following question to a referendum: "Do you accept the draft federal law 'On Land," yes or no?"

The underlying purpose of this proposal is obvious, the statement points out. With this wording, given a positive response, government supporters want legislation to legalize unlimited buying and selling of land, introduce mortgages on land, and thus expropriate the people's last source of national wealth — land and its mineral resources.

The Agrarian Party of Russia faction thinks that the proposal put forward by the PRES leader discredits the decisions adopted by the State Duma, which has rejected the proposed federal law "On Land" and given a first reading to the Russian Federation Land Code.

The Agrarian deputies' statement stresses their determination to secure the State Duma's speediest adoption of the Russian Federation Land Code and the holding of an All-Russia Rural Assembly 27 October this year in Moscow. All that, according to the Agrarian faction, should calm down the rabid populists from PRES and NDR [Russia Is Our Home] who are trying to impose on the people a referendum that runs counter to both the fundamental interests of the peasantry and existing Russian Federation legislation.

Dismissed FSB Head Said To Have Disclosed State Secrets

MK0710121195 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 6 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "FSB General Fired for Disclosing State Security Agents in MVD"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One of the most trustworthy versions sweeping the corridors of Lubyanka regarding the firing of the chief of the FSB [Federal Security Service] Registration and Archive Funds Directorate [URAF], Lieutenant General Anatoliy Krayushkin, has become known to MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS.

The men in the FSB central apparatus think the main reason behind the removal of the URAF boss was a story from late 1991. A deputy chief of the Tenth (Archive) Directorate of the Russian Federation Security Ministry at that time, Colonel Krayushkin was one of the first to put down his name to be received by Viktor Barannikov right after the latter was appointed security minister. Notably, he did not come to the new minister empty-handed. As a present, the colonel brought along an index-card box from his archive with the names of KGB agents in the internal affairs agencies. Thus, Krayushkin "made a gift" of all the state security agents in the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] to the militia general [title as published].

The box with the index cards was next passed on to Minister of Internal Affairs Viktor Yerin, and a global purge was launched in the MVD in 1992. As for Colonel Krayushkin, he walked away from the security minister's office a major general and URAF chief.

Simultaneously, quite a few operatives who worked with militia agents quit the Security Ministry. Some of them found jobs in operational subdivisions of the Russian Federation Main Protection Directorate. Now that Mikhail Barsukov has been appointed FSB director, many of them are going back to Lubyanka. By all indications, they have not forgotten the story of their lost agents. Therefore, one of Mikhail Barsukov's personnel decisions was a decision to fire Anatoliy Krayushkin.

Experts Search For Bomb in Moscow Mayor's Office

LD0710132395 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Moscow mayor's office is at present being searched for a bomb following a telephone warning from an unknown person. The duty officer at the city's Main Directorate for Internal Affairs could not confirm a report that a bomb had been planted on Tverskaya Street. However, according to our correspondent's information, specialists with dogs are continuing to examine carefully every nook and cranny in the mayor's office building in their search for a possible explosive device.

Media Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree To Stop Disruption of Broadcasts

LD0610152195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1421 GMT 6 Oct 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 6 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed on Friday a decree to demand to put a stop to unsanctioned disruption of broadcasts of all-Russian TV and radio broadcasting organisations on the Russian territory. Sergey Medvedev, press secretary of the Russian President, reported this to ITAR-TASS. He said the presidential decree grants the status of all-Russian TV and Radio broadcasting organisations to the Russian Public Television ORT, the All-Russia State Television and Radio-broadcasting Corporation, St. Petersburg — Fifth Channel, as well as to radio stations Mayak, Radio-1 and Yunost — Youth Channel.

Daily Urges Cleanup of 'Criminalized' Advertising Sector

MM0610104795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Oct 95 P 2

[Report by Sergey Leskov: "Lots of 'Dirty Money' in Advertising"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Autumn in Sochi is the season for every kind of conference. And even the "Top Hat" [tennis] competition for Kremlin insiders did not overshadow other events. A show by leading fashion designers, an exhibition by perfumiers, where, incidentally, the historic decision to create the Russian Perfume and Cosmetics Union was made. But for journalists the most important event — one of vital importance — was the conference "Advertising in the Mass Media," which ended at the beginning of October.

For most newspapers, magazines, and television and radio channels, acquiring independence has been a matter of professional honor. And there is only one way to do this — through a successful advertising strategy. But as yet only a very small number are succeeding in this. It was gratifying to hear the views of advertising experts, who have a better knowledge than anyone of publications' financial situation, which is usually carefully concealed: Only IZVESTIYA, FINANSOVVYYE IZVESTIYA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, EKONOMIKA I ZHIZN, and KOMMERSANT WEEKLY feel solid and independent.

Each of the advertising agencies represented in Sochi is backed by the interests of major financial and industrial groups. These structures, like the entire Russian economy, do not need upheavals — what they want is stability and predictability, including in the advertising business. But only people far removed from this field could think that this is a quiet and docile business. The murder of Vladislav Listyev, about which there was a lot of talk in Sochi, is only the tip of the iceberg.

Far away from hidebound Moscow offices we were able to hear ample admissions about the atmosphere reigning in the advertising business. Here is a curious statistic: 40 percent of the money circulating in this field passes "under the counter" — that is, without any documentation. In Moscow alone the monthly turnover from advertising is estimated at approaching $7 million. Some 85 percent of the television advertising market has been grabbed by Western companies, which in 1994 invested $450 million in TV advertising.

The main problem is the creation of a civilized advertising business. But in the view of Dmitriy Lekukha, president of the "Reliz" [Release] agency, the advertising market is among the most highly criminalized in Russia. There is no particular difficulty in hiding money for advertising from auditors. Advertising agencies are therefore falling increasingly into the sphere of interests of criminal structures, which use them to "launder" their capital. The radio — where, apart from broadcasting schedules, often no trace of capital movements is recorded — is particularly "popular" with the mafia. The general view is that the ocean of Russian radio stations contains very few "honest" ones.

As yet newspapers have not fallen into the sphere of interests of criminal operators simply because they have a congenital fear of the printed media, which are always keen to make a fuss. But there is a trend, and it is feared that the mafia could also spread into the press given the current impunity enjoyed by illegal advertising operations.

One way or another you can find out who the guilty ones are. But what is to be done? As Professor Igor Krylov believes, the Antimonopoly Committee offers little hope since the functions given to it by the Law on Advertising are ridiculous and far removed from the essence of the problem. On the one hand, the threat of up to three years' corrective labor is unparalleled in world advertising practice in terms of its severity, but on the other it is not aimed at those areas where things are totally out of hand.

Appeals to pool efforts evolved into a formalized decision to start a company [kompaniya; possible misprint for "kampaniya," meaning "campaign"] for the creation of a professional department of advertising personnel under the Union of Journalists. It was also decided to create an arbitration tribunal which could strip violators of professional ethics of their license to advertise. But maybe the most important result is that everybody came to the conclusion that decency in advertising must become an economic concept.

Military & Space Issues

Yeltsin Allows Funds for Military Technology Committee

LD0710224795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1631 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 7 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued an edict "On the centralized social and material-technical fund of the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Military-Technical Policy." ITAR-TASS was told this today by the press service of the head of state.

The president has permitted the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Military-Technical Policy to have a centralized social and material-technical fund.

The government of the Russian Federation is to approve within one month provisions on the centralized social and material-technical fund of the State Committee of the Russian Federation for Military-Technical Policy, envisaging the allocation to the fund of up to 20 percent of the nonbudgetary finance that the committee gains from its activity, including payment for the production and allocation of licences, as well as the use of these and other revenues in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Grachev Speaks on Debate Over Size of Russian Army

LD0910213795 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0447 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian society is now debating the necessary numerical strength of the army. Today we give the floor to Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister.

[Begin Grachev recording] When the numerical strength of the army is debated, even prominent scientists and specialists on military matters sometimes give interpretations that are not quite correct. When the law on defense was being adopted the following entry was made: The numerical strength of the army should not exceed one percent of the population. This, mildly speaking, is not quite right. When we were adopting the law on defense at the time — not we, because it was adopted on our behalf — European standards were followed to the effect that the army's numerical strength should be one percent of the population. At the same time, the length of our borders and the size of our territory were absolutely ignored in the process. The law was passed. One percent is, roughly, 1.5 million people. What is an army numbering 1.5 million people? [words indistinct] The number of servicemen per 1 km of the front or 1 km of the border along the country's entire perimeter should be taken [into account]. Here we see that in our country, even given an army numbering 1.7 million people, which is the figure we are striving for, after all, because a lower figure will be impermissible, although I have mentioned 2.1 million people indeed — so we calculated that if our army numbers 1.7 million people we will have 28 servicemen per 1 km. For comparison China has 86 people, the United States — 62 people, it seems, Germany — 77 people (I am taking major countries) and France — 79 people. So is this a just decision? When people keep saying that Grachev wants this or that, it is not a matter of Grachev wanting something; Grachev is simply responsible now for this sphere of work. Grachev is taking this line in the interests of ensuring Russia's security, and the criticism against us is ill-thought-out. With a three-to-one advantage troops can carry out a successful offensive in any direction. Those who level unsubstantiated criticism at us are people who are absolutely ignorant of the army theory on which Russia's security is founded. [end recording]

Grachev Briefs Veterans on Army Reforms

MM0610104195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Prasol: "Russian Federation Defense Minister's Meeting With Representatives of Russian Veterans' Organizations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The occasion for the meeting between Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev and leaders of Russian and Moscow veterans' organizations, held in the Central House of the Russian Army, was a pleasant one. The defense minister, on Boris Yeltsin's instructions, presented the Russian president's commendations to organizations and individuals for their active participation in the preparation and holding of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Great Victory.

In his speech Army Gen. Pavel Grachev noted that Russian society needs the ideals of the Great Victory. Without them, it is not possible to build a great Russia. This is the moral potential that will help to rally people of different generations and unite the nations as closely around the idea of the Fatherland's revival as in the war years, when it was the people's unity in the name of a lofty goal that saved the country.

Our veterans passed through the crucible of the cruelest of wars and bore through the flames of battle an indestructible love for their Fatherland and devotion to the cause for which they gave their most precious possession — life. Things are hard for them now, and it is not only material conditions that are darkening the old age of the front-line generation. They are used to difficulties of that nature, things were tough at the front too. What grieves them, sometimes more severely than day-to-day difficulties, is the young people's lack of attention to the front-liners and the callousness and indifference of certain leaders in the local organs of power.

However, the most important thing should be stressed — the jubilee celebrations held throughout Russia, which ended, like World War II, in the Far East, showed that the threads that bind the different generations are not weaker, but growing stronger.

The president's commendations were presented to Army Gen. Vladimir Govorov and Colonel Gen. Mikhail Odintsov, who took part in the Red Square parade; to

Yuriy Smirnov, leader of the Union of Reconnaissance Detachments of Russia, and Frants Kvintsevich, leader of the Union of Afghanistan Veterans; and to representatives of the Moscow Military Commandant's Office, the Honor Guard, and the Honor Guard Separate Model Band.

After the conclusion of the official ceremony of presentation of the Russian president's commendations, there was an exchange of opinions on ways to further improve the work of veterans' associations and on their contribution to the patriotic education of the young generation. The front-liners said, not without concern, that this work is currently very weak, and this of course affects the moral state of Russian society.

At the request of the veterans, whose life stories were associated with the Armed Forces for half a century, Russian Federation Defense Minister Army Gen. Pavel Grachev told them about the Russian Defense Ministry's stance on the question of army reform and ways of settling conflicts in the "hot spots" and answered questions from representatives of the mass media.

Commander Says Economy Cannot Support Military Reforms

LD0610214495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1903 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 6 (INTERFAX) — Russia is not ready to have professional Armed Forces or carry out genuine reform, Commander of the Russian Air-Borne Troops Colonel-General Yevgeniy Podkolzin told an exclusive INTERFAX interview Friday.

According to him, "any transformations are out of the question against the background of current scarce financing. Enthusiasm cannot last forever, and people do not receive their salaries for two or three months. Officers do not receive their allowances for children, food and apartment for several months."

The salary of a platoon commander is 300,000 rubles, while the troops commander has a salary of 460,000. Over 7,000 out of the 11,000 officers of the Russian Air-Borne Troops do not have an apartment.

"Despite government resolutions, military units are denied water, electricity and central heating supply," stressed the general.

According to Podkolzin, the abundant calls for an army reform are not accompanied with "its clear justification." People dealing with this reform are not professionals, they are far from understanding army problems."

The general, commander of the Black sea fleet Eduard Baltin and other military members of the election bloc "For Motherland" are planning to offer their concept of military reform to the new parliament. The general did not comment on the reform details, but said it will be presented at a news conference by the bloc in the near future.

Spacecraft 'Progress M-29' Launched 8 Oct in Baykonur

LD0810202595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1915 GMT 8 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Veronika Romanenkova, Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 8 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The spacecraft Progress M-29 is carrying nearly two and a half tonnes of cargo to the orbital complex Mir. It was launched today with the aid of the Soyuz-U booster rocket from the "Gagarin" launch pad of the cosmodrome in Baykonur. The Military Space Forces of the Russian Federation carried out the launch at 2151 Moscow time [1851 GMT].

The "lorry" is carrying the usual equipment such as oxidizing agent and fuel for Mir's engines; oxygen for regenerating the air in the station; equipment and expendable materials for research experiments; drinking water, food and things for the cosmonauts. Furthermore, all the members of the Russo-European team currently working in space — Yuriy Gudzenko, Sergey Abdeyev, and Thomas Reiter — will receive parcels from their families.

Today's launch was successful and on schedule. The unfortunate incident that took place on 27 September with the installation of the rocket during launch preparations did not affect this spacecraft setting off to Mir.

Workers Disconnect Power Supply to Spacecraft Test Center

LD0810182095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1652 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 8 (INTERFAX) — Despite a government directive of September 23, power engineers in a number of Russia's regions keep disconnecting strategic installations from power supply for their enormous electricity bills.

A source in Blagoveschensk (the Amur region, southeastern Siberia) told INTERFAX Sunday that the Amurenergo joint-stock company had started to push 2.5 billion rubles out of the Main Spacecraft Test Center (future launch site Svobodny).

Amurenergo interrupted power supply for 75 minutes on October 5 and for almost eight hours on October 6. The interruption affected all installations, homes of about 7,000 servicemen with families and a military hospital.

However, INTERFAX failed to obtain any commentary to this effect in the press center of Russia's space forces.

Federal Assembly

Federation Council Skeptical Over Draft Budget

MM0610152095 Moscow IZVESTIYA (Financial Section) in Russian 5 Oct 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Yevgeniya Pismennaya: "The Upper House of Parliament Assesses the Draft 1996 Budget Skeptically"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The consultative stage of the examination of the 1996 budget has begun in the Federation Council. The Committees for Agrarian Policy, for the Affairs of the North and Minority Nationalities, and for CIS Affairs expressed their point of view on the draft.

The draft federal budget forecasts the further suppression of inflation and its restriction to the level of 1.0-1.2 percent per month. The forecasts and conditions contained in the draft repeat the scenario of 1995. In the opinion of the committees, no economic miracle can take place next year, and this forecast cannot be more reliable than in previous years.

There are serious doubts as to whether the draft's premises are sufficiently corroborated, especially as concerns increasing tax revenues from 127.9 trilliion to 272.9 trillion rubles [R], or more than doubling them. The draft budget proceeds on the premise that the profits of Russian enterprises will increase in 1996 by R227 trillion, or 111.8 percent. There is no justification to corroborate these optimistic estimates; the role of inflation is not shown, and a forecast of other macroeconomic indicators is wholly lacking.

Expenditure in the draft is distributed extremely unequally. While the total increase in federal budget expenditure is 67 percent, expenditure on the base sectors and strategically important spheres increases to a far lesser degree:

industry, power engineering, and construction — 38 percent;

agriculture and fisheries — 40 percent;

fundamental research and the promotion of scientific and technical progress — 54 percent;

education — 59 percent;

health care and physical education — 62 percent.

At the same time it is planned to increase expenditure on state administration by 72 percent, on law-enforcement activity by 130 percent (on the Public Prosecutor's Office by only 50 percent), and on the management of state property, which has now reduced in volume, by 122 percent.

The 40-percent increase in expenditure on agriculture and fisheries provided for in the budget, the Committee for Agrarian Policy claims, reflects only the inflationary process (the deflator recommended by the Ministry of Finances in calculating the 1996 budget is equal to 1.34), and does not compensate for the losses which agriculture bears as a consequence of the steady disruption of the ratio between intersector exchange and the growth of expenditure. The sector's profitability began to decrease from 1992 onward. In 1994 it started to make a loss.

In order to create normal economic conditions for reproduction in agriculture, compensation for costs from federal budget funds should constitute not less than 50 percent. In connection with this the level of budget funding in the section "Agriculture and Fisheries" should as a minimum be increased from R13.1 trillion to R26.2 trillion. This would enable the federal budget expenditure on the agro-industrial complex to be maintained at the level of 6.3 percent — which is what it was in 1993, when farms maintained a minimal profitability — rather than the 3.16 percent proposed in the budget for next year.

The Federation Council Committee for Affairs of the North and Minority Nationalities, having examined the draft budget, consider its indicators concerning the Far North and localities on an equivalent footing to be unacceptable.

The draft federal budget for 1996 provides for a further deterioration in the solution of the question of funding the transportation of products to the North. It is planned to compensate only part of the expenses connected only with the delivery of freight to regions with restricted transport seasons, to the tune of R3 trillion. According to an assessment by the Ministry of Finance, next year's requirement as regards funds for bringing in fuel and energy resources amounts to R35 trillion. According to the calculations of specialists, it is necessary to allocate R9.7 trillion in the 1996 budget for the transportation of oil, petroleum products, and fuel alone.

The Committee for CIS Affairs also notes that the levels of funding proposed by the government from the federal budget in 1996 are insufficient to implement both individual federal targeted programs and to fulfill the Russian Federation's obligations under bilateral and multilateral treaties and agreements with the CIS states.

According to the information of the Federal Migration Service the arrival on Russian territory of a further 620,000 forced migrants from the states of the near abroad is expected in 1996. Their total number by the end of the year will reach 1,600-1,700 people. One-third of migrants who have arrived here belong to the category of socially unprotected persons.

In order to implement the measures of the "Federal Migration Program" the Russian Federal Migration Service has drawn up a budget claim for 1996, calculating and justifying a minimum requirement of financial resources of R12.6 trillion. The draft federal budget for next year provides for appropriations of R2,198.35 billion for these measures, or about one sixth of the sum requested.

In 1996 under previously signed intergovernmental agreements funds should go toward paying off the principal and the interest for the use of credits to the tune of R1,920 billion. These funds are sufficient to satisfy requests for new credits to be granted to the tune of not less than R750 billion to pay for Russian deliveries, primarily to enterprises which offer good prospects to the Russian economy.

Like its predecessors, the 1996 budget is based on the principle of the mechanical combination of income and expenditure. However, in order to achieve the maximum macroeconomic impact, a strategic concept for state expenditure and the creation of a mechanism to ensure its efficiency are required. The mechanical nature of the budget system does not allow one to view it as a factor capable of rescuing the Russian economy from crisis.

Senate's Gonchar Urges Referendum on Union With Belarus

MK1010064695 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Anna Krayevskaya and Vitaliy Marsov: "Nikolay Gonchar Prods Russia Toward Belarus. Yesterday Federation Council Suddenly Proposed Holding a Referendum on 'Closer Integration' of Two Countries"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In its very first [post-recess] session on 3 October, the Federation Council backed the initiative of Budget Committee Chairman Nikolay Gonchar to hold a Russian Federation referendum "On the Question of Deepening the Economic and Political Integration of Russia and Belarus." The Federation Council turned to the Russian president, the Duma, and political parties and movements with a proposal to aid the implementation of this action. As your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent was told by Yelena Mizulina, deputy chairman of the Constitutional Legislation Committee, the upper chamber of parliament thus began shaping public opinion. Now a citizens' initiative group is to be set up and two million signatures gathered. In Mrs. Mizulina's view, the referendum could be held between the parliamentary and presidential elections. The idea is to create an analog to the European Economic Union, a single customs service and currency, and jointly to guard the borders.

The Federation Council statement says: "Belarus has confirmed more than once its readiness for closer relations with Russia and a long-term political and economic union." Furthermore, the upper chamber of the Russian parliament noted that "backing the integration processes between our countries by a direct expression of the will of the citizens would set a shining example of citizens' influence on the policy of Russia, and would make it possible to strengthen confidence in the state and democratic values." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the idea is not new; it was put forward more than once in the course of the year by the man who finally proposed it yesterday at the Federation Council — Nikolay Gonchar. He has also written about this more than once on the pages of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA [NG]. Our correspondent got in touch with Nikolay Gonchar yesterday to ask him the following questions.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] You have long been selling this idea, but since it has of late also been used by other politicians, can one assume that you addressed the Federation Council on 3 October not only on your own initiative?

[Gonchar] No. The initiative for this address was all mine, but this idea can be used in various political situations.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] Did you consult anyone in the Kremlin or the White House about this the day before?

[Gonchar] I wrote a year ago in your own NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that a moment would come when the elites not only in the CIS countries but also in Russian itself would find themselves in a situation that would make them perceive this idea as the only means of self-preservation.

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA] And yet, did not someone from the Kremlin, for example, ask you to talk about this today?

[Gonchar] No. Everyone knows it is impossible to pressure me. I always come up with my own views.

In any event, the Federation Council's decision brings about a substantially new situation not only in the integration processes within the space of the former USSR, but specifically on the Moscow political scene. If this is not a full step toward restoring a "renovated Union," then it is perhaps a half-step that may be a warm-up before storming forward.

Zhirinovskiy Says Duma Will Lift Sanctions on FRY

LD0610211195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1711 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 6 (INTERFAX) - The presidential veto on the bill under which Russia would unilaterally withdraw from the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia "will be overcome sooner or later and Russia will pull out of the embargo against the FRY," Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told journalists Friday following an unsuccessful attempt to overcome the veto.

Zhirinovskiy described as a lie the argument advanced by Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevsky that the UN Charter does not allow Russia to do so.

According to Zhirinovskiy who said he is a specialist in international law, a country which is not involved in a conflict "has a perfect right to pull out of UN sanctions if its economic interests are hurt."

"Consequently, the legal issue is resolved as a moral issue. We are on the Serb side and helping Yugoslavia is economically beneficial to us," he said.

Zhirinovskiy commented on U.S. president Bill Clinton's announcement that hostilities will cease in the Balkans on October 10 by saying, "This is a gangster's peace in the run up to the presidential elections." He believes that the announcement of peace in the Balkans once "they killed Serbs and took away their territories" is similar to the truce in Chechnya. "First we allowed Basayev (IF Note: the chieftain of a Chechen unit which attacked Budennovsk last June) to do his thing in the Stavropol territory and now we have peace in Chechnya," he continued.

Zhirinovskiy said that on October 20 he will leave for Yugoslavia "where millions will assemble in rallies to express solidarity with Serbs."

Duma Overrides Presidential Veto on Damages, Invalids Laws

LD0610144695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1300 GMT 6 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 6 (ITAR-TASS) — The federal law "On the procedure of the restoration of material damage to Russian citizens caused by the failure to meet schedules of the payment of wages, pensions, scholarships, benefits and other social payments" was passed repeatedly in the previous wording by the state Duma on Friday. The duma has thus overriden the presidential veto on this document that had earlier been passed by the lower house.

The law was turned down by Boris Yeltsin as it lacked a legal mechanism for the compensation for material damage and did not mention sources of the restoration of damage. This was noted in a memorandum of Sergey Kalashnikov, the chairman of the Duma Committee on labour and social support, that was circulated among deputies before the repeated voting on the law.

Kalashnikov believes the main reason why the law was rejected was the unwillingness to demand that there should be responsibility for the failure to fulfil the law "On the federal budget" which, specifically, makes it possible to manipulate with budget funds meant for wages.

The State Duma has also overriden the presidential veto on the law "On the social protection of invalids in Russia". It was passed in the same wording.

Duma Official Dubious About Gaydanov for Prosecutor General

LD0810162595 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1400 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] "I can only welcome this decision," Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the Russian State Duma Security Committee, told Moscow Echo radio station, commenting on the Russian president's decision to meet Aleksey Ilyushenko's request to release him from the post of acting Russian Federation prosecutor general.

"It so happened out that an incompetent was put into the post of prosecutor general, an unintelligent man who was by no means a politician, that is, a man who possesses none of the qualities necessary for a prosecutor general," Ilyukhin believes. "The prosecutor's office turned out to be no reliable defense of legality."

Regarding the appointment of Oleg Gaydanov as interim acting prosecutor general, Ilyukhin declared that "Gaydanov is pretty well qualified in professional terms, but the question arises of whether he will get on in the complex central apparatus of the Russian Federation Prosecutor General's Office."

"The president has the right to opt for any candidate, but I would advise the president not to keep making mistakes," Ilyukhin said.

"Gaydanov has a number of specific shortcomings, which could prove decisive at a critical moment, and could prevent him from becoming the leader of the Prosecutor General's Office," Ilyukhin thinks. "Many people are aware of the background that dogs him from his Uzbekistan days, when mass illegal arrests were made and criminal charges brought against innocent people. Then he was removed from the post of deputy prosecutor general of Uzbekistan and switched to a pretty inferior post. He may have proved his high principles, his probity, or perhaps the president is giving him the chance to prove himself."

"A candidate from the regions should be presented to the Federation Council," Ilyukhin suggests. "We have many talented workers in public prosecution, who head prosecutor's offices in the republics, territories, and regions." Ilyukhin is of the view that "the Moscow bigshots have compromised themselves pretty thoroughly through impermissible contacts and links."

"An unknown person should come along, one who is clean and has no links with the top echelons of power, because today it is precisely those top echelons of power that are more corrupt than ever," Ilyukhin declared.

MMM Founder Loses Parliamentary Mandate

LD0610180595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1715 GMT 6 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 6 (Itar-Tass) - The Russian State Duma has stripped President of the MMM Investment Fund Sergey Mavrodi of his parliamentary mandate today by the 303 votes with no votes against and one abstention.

Mavrodi was elected to the State Duma from the Mytishchi constituency of the Moscow region.

A resolution adopted by the State Duma says that the parliamentary mandate of the entrepreneur well known all over Russia had been terminated in connection with the violation of the terms set for a lawmaker's activities.

Before the vote, Chairman of the Duma Mandate Commission Vitaliy Sevastaynov informed the lawmakers that the commission had looked into documents submitted by the taxation police and the States Taxation Inspectorate, featuring Mavrodi's commercial activities. The documents indicate that Mavrodi still heads the MMM Investment Fund and that he has created 13 more MMM branch departments and has been signing documents himself. Sevastyanov pointed out that Mavrodi had violated the law on a status of a lawmaker of the Federal Assembly, banning the lawmakers from being involved in commercial activities.

A total of 13 out of 22 members of the Mandate Commission have adopted a resolution to recommend that the State Duma vote for the termination of Mavrodi's parliamentary mandate ahead of schedule. Incidentally, Mavrodi was not present at the session of the Mandate Commission, Sevastyanov said.

Taking into account the results of the vote in which the majority of the lawmakers decided to strip Mavrodi of his parliamentary mandate, Chairman of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin has suggested that Sevastyanov prepare all the necessary documents to be forwarded to corresponding bodies authorised to resolve such matters.

Duma Fails To Harden Punishment for Draft Dodgers

LD0710113995 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma refuses to harden punishment for violating the law on military service. Fines imposed on draftees for dodging initial registration before their call-up were supposed to be increased. The president's administration is drafting a decree on alternative military service for those due for call-up this fall. Those wanting the alternative service will be sent to construction battalions and units of the Road Construction Directorate.

Duma Official on Law on Disposal of Federal Shares

LD0910174195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 9 (Interfax) — The bill "On Disposal of Federal Shares of Joint Stock Companies Formed in Privatization," adopted by the Russian State Duma in three readings Friday, purposely hampers the sale of shares of Russian leading enterprises, head of the Duma Committee for Property, Privatization and Economic Activities Sergey Burkov told correspondents Monday.

"Seeking more budget revenues, the government is ready to sell dirt-cheap even the plants which ensure strategic security of this country," said Burkov. In his opinion, Russian businessmen and bankers "will not have enough money to buy these packages of shares, and they will be purchased by foreign speculators via mediators."

The bill prohibits the sale or pawning of federal shares in joint stock companies "which are of strategic importance for the Russian economy and national security" till the lawful term of their federal ownership expires.

These are joint stock companies which generate and distribute electricity; extract, process and sell oil, natural gas and gas condensate, precious metals, gems, radioactive and rare earth elements; design, produce and repair armaments, military and space machinery and ammunition; or are involved with nuclear machine-building and other defense-related areas.

Deputy Interior Minister Submits Criminal Law Amendments

LD0910130695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1248 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Larisa Kislinskaya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 9 (Itar-Tass) - A proposal to perfect some articles of the new criminal law were made to the Russian President and the State Duma by Lieutenant-General Vladimir Kolesnikov, Russia's First Deputy Interior Minister.

Actions of criminals should be summarily assessed by the judiciary on all their criminal offences, Kolesnikov said in an exclusive interview to Itar-Tass. In Russian judiciary practice the punishment for grave crimes covers that for smaller crimes. As a result a man guilty of one hundred burglaries is meted out the same punishment as the one guilty of five burglaries.

Articles should define terms of punishment for definite criminal offences, Kolesnikov believes. In accordance with the present legislation, a judge can decide on the term of imprisonment ranging from three to six years for one of the the same offense.

Kolesnikov believes that articles of the Penal Code should be revised and that the punishment for car theft and illegal possession of arms should be more severe. These articles have loopholes for offenders: a car theft can be qualified as taking a car for a ride which entails a milder punishment. Carrying arms in a disassembled form entails a token punishment.

Kolesnikov believes that the toughening of punishment will play a positive role. "Those who want the abolishment of capital punishment in our society want society's destabilisation", Kolesnikov said.

Duma Deputies View Candidates for Prosecutor General

LD0910170295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1518 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov and Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 9 (Itar-Tass) — The Russian Prosecutor-General's Office must pursue a new policy intended to combat organised crime, must implement the ideas of the ongoing judicial reform — this view keynoted all the pronouncements of State Duma members, interviewed by Itar-Tass today in connection with the dismissal of acting Prosecutor-General Aleksey Ilyushenko.

"The post of Prosecutor-General is a political one. Hence, I think that a Prosecutor-General should not be connected with this structure," eminent Russian lawyer Boris Zolotukhin, Vice-Chairman of the "Russia's Choice" parliamentary faction believes. In his opinion, it would be right for the President to recommend to this post "somebody from the academic world, a law scholar, whose scientific authority is recognised by all the country."

Zolotukhin pointed in this connection to Aleksandr Yakovlev, who represents the president in the State Duma, and to Valeriy Savitskiy, presidential representative in the Constitutional Court. Turning to the candidature of Valentin Kovalev, whose name has already been quoted in the press as Ilyushenko's possible successor, Zolotukhin noted: "I don't think that the Justice Ministry should be weakened today."

Another prominent lawyer Vladimir Isakov, Chairman of the Duma Committee for Legislation and the Legal Reform, noted that the president's decision concerning Ilyushenko "is much too belated." He stressed that "only the most highly honoured men" should be appointed to head the Prosecutor-General's Office. Isakov indicated among the possible candidates his colleague Isa Kostoyev, Chairman of the Committee for Legislation of the Council of the Federation, and also Gennadiy Ponomarev, the ex-Prosecutor-General of Moscow. "To my mind it is also worth considering the candidature of Justice Minister Valentin Kovalev, although he is less associated with the Prosecutor-General's Office," Isakov stated.

Leader of the Duma Communist Party faction Gennadiy Zyuganov said that the appointment of Ilyushenko as acting Prosecutor-General was "a mistake from the very outset." "The Communist Party is ready to offer the Russian leadership its candidates to this post," he stressed. "They may include Viktor Ilyukhin, Chairman of the Duma Committee for Security, or Gennadiy Ponomayov, the former Prosecutor of Moscow," Zyuganov noted.

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage; Political, Military Situation

Yeltsin Calls For 'Well-Balanced' Actions

LD1010101395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 10 Oct 95

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today said the federal authorities "have not yet exhausted all available measures to stabilise the situation in Chechnya."

"According to the President of the Russian Federation, any steps to be taken in the Chechen republic must be well-balanced and thoroughly thought-through," the presidential press-service said in a statement about today's meeting between the President and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The President's evaluation of the situation prompts a conclusion that he is still reluctant to back the government proposal to introduce the state of emergency in a number of regions of the Chechen republic.

Lobov: Forces Opposed to Peace Talks

LD0910162095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1231 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 8 (INTERFAX) — "The latest developments have demonstrated that the forces which would like to foil the peace process in Chechnya at all costs, and paralyze the efforts of the federal authorities, the national revival government, Chechnya's national accord committee and all sound political forces to stabilize the political life and restore Chechnya's economy and social sphere, are invigorating their activity," says the statement by the Russian president's personal envoy in Chechnya, Secretary of the Russian Federation's Security Council Oleg Lobov, circulated in Groznyy Sunday.

He said that "the tactics of terror, condemned by the world community, is aimed above all against the figures who are actively promoting the peace process, against Commander of the Joint Federal Grouping in Chechnya General Anatoliy Romanov, against his colleagues, against the group for assisting the OSCE in Groznyy and against the builders who are taking part in the restoration works."

In Lobov's opinion, "the policy of intimidation aimed at creating an atmosphere of fear and disbelief in the ability of the federal authorities and of the leaders of the reviving republic to ensure the population's security and to protect the Chechen citizens' civil and personal rights, is delaying the implementation of the agreements reached during the talks."

Lobov also stated that "the side, represented during the talks by Aslan Maskhadov, has failed to ensure the implementation of the agreements on the release of the hostages and on giving out the participants in terrorist acts." "The schedule of arms surrender is being violated, too," stated Lobov.

"Such a position discredits the very concept of peace settlement in Chechnya, by political means," reads Lobov's statement.

Lobov believes that "the all the necessary prerequisites have been created for the attainment of peace and concord in Chechnya."

"The task of preventing the failure of the peace process, to promote the restoration of normal life in the republic and to ward off the danger of civil war is a task demanding political courage, wisdom, and mutual trust and respect of all forces interested in restoring peace in Chechnya."

He comes out for taking "a set of effective measures to neutralize the efforts of those who are trying to reignite the fire of war and who are pursuing a policy of bloodshed and suffering."

Khasbulatov on Assassination Attempt

LD0810230495 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Interview with Ruslan Khasbulatov by Yevgeniy Kiselev in the "Itogi" studio on 8 October — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Kiselev] Our guest today is Ruslan Khasbulatov, the man Anatoliy Romanov was travelling to see when an attempt on his life was carried out. Ruslan Imranovich, thanks for coming to our studio. I would like to ask you straightaway: Since Anatoliy Romanov was on the way to see you, do you have any idea who could have known about your meeting and had time to prepare this terrorist act?

[Khasbulatov] You know, I am extremely, deeply upset by the tragedy that happened to General Anatoliy Romanov, especially when during my week-long stay in Chechnya I learned that the general enjoyed wide respect and popularity of the population and moreover, of chiefs of various detachments waging a war against the Russian Army, many of whom I met. We decided to meet to exchange our ideas and maybe advise each other on how to work and what conclusions should be made from what I have heard, for example, in order to carry out peacekeeping work.

Incidentally, I have been constantly thinking about who could have known. There are no telephones there. Let's say...

[Kiselev, interrupts] You mean you have no telephones there? You have direct communications there. Don't you talk on the phone?

[Khasbulatov] No, we did not talk to anybody on the phone. We agreed to hold a meeting directly with our representative there [Vladimir] Zorin, the head of the territorial administration [as heard]. We did this literally 40 minutes or an hour before the actual meeting. We were waiting in Groznyy in the building that officially houses the federal administration when Zorin said that the general is usually very punctual and that we should find out why he was late. When I telephoned I was told that he had already left. Fifteen minutes later I called again and was told that there had been a terrorist act. Of course, people immediately began to ask each other who knew what and so on and so forth. I do not know all the details, but some people mentioned that during that morning several suspicious cars were seen near the building where the meeting was to be held and also near other places I had visited on that day. When they tried to detain them, one car — I believe it was a white Volga — disappeared. Other cars were searched, but nothing was found it seems.

On the basis of all this, I came to the conclusion that this was a sufficiently targeted action aimed at undermining the entire peace process, especially taking into account the fact that during this week, when I was there and Zavgayev was there, too, there was a general feeling among the people that tension had eased. [passage omitted]

[Kiselev] Russia's Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov today actually blamed Dudayev's side both for this assassination attempt and also for the attempt on Oleg Lobov's life. What do you think about this statement?

[Khasbulatov] I think that one should have a broader view of the issue. Let's see what forces in Chechnya are interested in continuing this situation of neither war nor peace, which sometimes develops into a military conflict and sometimes into some kind of talks. This is the situation of tension, lawlessness and chaos, when it is possible to waste colossal sums of money, including in the budget, and when all sorts of deals with oil and other resources are also possible. So, who is interested in all this? Undoubtedly, one of the interested forces is a narrow group of people in the immediate entourage of Dudayev, I think. But there are also other forces, some interim authorities that used to quite powerfully torpedo the very possibility of establishing strong power as a result of elections. We all know very well that the legitimate power may be a basis for stabilization. Actions linked to threats and an arrest of a group of OSCE observers, for example, and attacks and aggressive actions of some officials in the interim administration show that they are not particularly interested in stabilization. [passage omitted]

Romanov's Condition 'Stable'

*LD0910211895 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1951 GMT 9 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — Commander of the Federal Troops in Chechnya, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Romanov will stay on assisted respiration for several more days, Head of the Burdenko Main Military Clinical Hospital, Major General Vyacheslav Klyuzhev told INTERFAX tonight.

Romanov was seriously injured in an assassination attempt on his life in Groznyy last Friday.

Klyuzhev said the medical board held an evening meeting which lasted for over two and a half hours and involved the country's leading medical specialists, including Director of the Burdenko Neurosurgery Scientific Research Institute Aleksey Konovalov and his deputy Aleksandr Potapov. The medical specialists updated the tactic for treating Romanov.

Klyuzhev said Romanov was unlikely to have to go through further surgery. Earlier, Romanov was operated on four times.

Klyuzhev said medical workers were mainly concerned about Romanov's severe head injury which explained his serious state.

However, Klyuzhev said Romanov's state was stable and had not worsened over the last 24 hours.

Maskhadov on Romanov's Replacement

*LD0710182595 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Oct 95*

[Interview with Aslan Maskhadov, Chechen rebel chief of staff, by an unidentified correspondent on 7 October, place not given; from the "Vesti" newscast — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Video shows Maskhadov in a room, Chechen flag in the background] Speaking about what has been taking place up until now, including yesterday, there is a group of people who wish this war to continue. It is a party of war.

[Correspondent] What would you say about General Romanov as a person?

[Maskhadov] He is someone who, indeed, understands this war, has been in this war, and is keen to see this war end.

[Correspondent] If you were to judge the terrorists who organized this blast yesterday what would you do with them?

[Maskhadov] I would shoot them. I am thinking also about who is going to replace Romanov. Will it be Anatoliy Kulikov's man or Pavel Grachev's man? If he comes from Kulikov's side — I know Kulikov's and Romanov's views, they are truly interested in stopping this war and, to all appearances, wish it to take place. But if it is Grachev's man, it will mean unequivocally that Moscow's policy is aimed at thwarting this agreement and continuing the war.

'Command Assumed' by Romanov's Deputy

LD0710054895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0410 GMT 7 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 7 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — In connection with Anatoliy Romanov sustaining an injury, General Gafarov, the commander's first deputy, is now acting commander of the Joint Group of Federal Forces in Chechnya. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this today by Vladimir Rubanov, deputy secretary of the Security Council. He said that, in accordance with regulations, command is assumed by the person most senior in position and rank. This is not a political decision but exclusively dictated by the regulations, he stressed.

The troops in Chechnya are now under command, as is required. As regards the future, Vladimir Rubanov believes that the country's leadership will consider this matter and, if it finds it necessary, confirm the choice made.

Chechens To Assist Attack Investigation

LD0910144695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1429 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — The Russian side has not responded to the Chechen proposal on joint investigation into the attempt upon life of federal troops commander General Anatoliy Romanov, Dudayev spokesman Movladi Udugov told INTERFAX Sunday.

Udugov reaffirmed this proposal and said they are ready for exchange of information and cooperation in the investigation under the aegis of the Special Observer Commission.

He lamented over the "excessively emotional" interview of Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov with the first channel of the Russian TV. His demand of immediate extradition of executors of the terrorist act against Romanov, and field commander Shamil Basayev (who organized the attack at Budennovsk, the Russian Stavropol territory, in June — IF) means "indirect accusation" of the Chechen side of involvement in the Romanov assassination attempt, said the Dudayev representative.

He bluntly refuted such claims and said, in his opinion, "organizers of the terrorist acts are in Moscow, and their executors are in Groznyy."

Maskhadov: Attack Aimed at Disrupting Accord

LD0710143895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 7 (INTERFAX) — The attempt to assassinate the commander of the group of federal troops in Chechnya General Anatoliy Romanov was a gross provocation aimed at disrupting the military agreement and unleashing another spiral of large-scale military actions in the North Caucasus, said the cochairman of the Special Observers' Commission Aslan Maskhadov in a statement forwarded to the command of federal troops in Groznyy on Saturday [7 October].

As INTERFAX's correspondent reports, in his statement Maskhadov says that the terrorist acts launched against Romanov and earlier against the secretary of Russia's Security Council Oleg Lobov indicate that some forces both in Moscow and Groznyy are planning to unleash another large-scale war in Chechnya and in the Caucasus.

Maskhadov proclaimed his resolute condemnation of the criminal action, and urged all forces interested in a peaceful solution to the conflict between Russia and Chechnya to prevent another bloody military adventure.

In comments on the Russian government's proposal to impose a state of emergency in Groznyy Maskhadov said that in this case there will be absolutely no conditions for implementing the military agreement. According to him, the imposition of a state of emergency will be in the interests of the provocative terrorist forces, which stand for resuming military actions.

As Dzhokhar Dudayev's spokesman Movladi Udugov told INTERFAX, members of the Chechen delegation to the talks and members of the Special Observers'

Commission have not been able to leave Groznyy for two days now because of the lack of convoy vehicles with Russian military.

Mayor's Units Said To Back Groznyy Terrorism

LD0910155295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1231 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — The terrorist act against federal troops commander Anatoliy Romanov "had Groznyy executors and Moscow organizers," believes Dudayev aide Movlen Salamov.

He told INTERFAX Monday that many incidents in Groznyy were organized by armed units of the municipal police formed by Groznyy Mayor Beslan Gantemirov. Local residents call them Gantemirov's units.

According to Salamov, Gantemirov is strongly against bilateral negotiations between Dudayev representatives and the federal troops command on peaceful settlement of the Chechen crisis. "He is doing his best to stop the work of the Special Observer Commission in Groznyy," he said.

Salamov thinks that Saturday's grenade launcher shelling of the OSCE mission could be caused by Gantemirov's reaction to the negative estimation by head of the OSCE Groznyy mission Sandor Mescaros of Gantemirov ban on pro-Dudayev rallies in the Chechen capital.

In the words of the Dudayev aide, terrorist acts against the Russian President's Representative in Chechnya Oleg Lobov and General Anatoliy Romanov have much in common.

He said the Dudayev side "bluntly rejects any accusations on its involvement in the terrorist act against Romanov. The logic shows this terrorist act was not advantageous for us."

According to Salamov, federal troops commander Anatoliy Romanov was the one "who boosted the work of the Special Observer Commission" and is a guarantee of normalization in Chechnya.

Grachev: Peace Talks Should Be Halted

LD0710190195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1831 GMT 7 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Geneva, 7 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Defense Minister Pavel Grachev believes that after the attempt on General Anatoliy Romanov's life in Chechnya the talks should be halted and all measures taken to destroy the gangs that had infiltrated Groznyy. He said this to ITAR-TASS today after arriving in Geneva where his talks with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry are scheduled on Sunday.

The attempt follows the recent terrorist act against Oleg Lobov and was a deliberate act, the minister said. He stressed: "It was a mean and deliberate act." "You want to know my view? I for one would interrupt the talks and take all the measures to destroy the gangs that had penetrated Groznyy," he added.

"I understand that the president and the government are now going to develop tactics for further actions, but one cannot put up with this any longer since — as I have warned more than once — the fighters are amassing there, they already have hardware and armaments, tanks and fighting vehicles," the minister continued. "After the second blast one cannot put up with this, the bandits must be destroyed."

Kulikov Calls For State of Emergency

LD0810152395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Interview of Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov by Aleksandr Goryanov on 8 October; place not given; from the "Novosti" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kulikov] While the process of settling the Chechen conflict has been taking place, the opposition of the most reactionary part of Dudayev's supporters has also been intensifying. In the past few days the situation has been very sharply aggravated. [Chechen Chief of Staff Aslan] Maskhadov has pledged himself to a total handover of heavy weapons and equipment by 10 October, and by the 25th to disarm the illegal armed units. Unfortunately, not a single piece of armored equipment has been handed over and not a single unit has been disarmed to date. From this the conclusion can be drawn that Dudayev's side is, on the one hand, making declarations in the mass media that it is adhering to the peace settlement and the presence of the OSCE mission, but in fact it is conducting work that is aimed at frustrating the agreement.

The terrorist acts against presidential plenipotentiary representative Oleg Lobov and Anatoliy Romanov, commander of the joint forces, show that Dudayev's supporters do not in fact intend to fulfill this agreement. Furthermore, Dudayev's supporters made a call at a meeting that took place not long ago in Sernovodsk that they should consolidate their leading positions in Ackhkoy-Martan and Samashki, and that anti-army agitation should be carried out against the federal forces. In order to make it look as if these were mass meetings, they dressed their fighters in civilian clothes.

In my view, Maskhadov's reference to some third force interfering and so on is unsubstantiated. I believe that when new political leaders entered the process of resolving the conflict, Dudayev's side felt it was losing its chance to revive its regime. At a session of the special supervisory commission yesterday, the Russian Federation side announced its demand that the bandits — terrorists such as Basayev and his group, as well as those who carried out this filthy act against the commander of the joint forces — be handed over immediately. We demanded that the agreement be strictly fulfilled. There are specific deadlines. The path is open, the doors are open to all political forces participating in the resolution of this conflict. Dudayev's side is obliged to fulfill it. If there are attempts to avoid fulfillment for unsubstantiated reasons, we reserve the right to continue the fulfillment of this agreement unilaterally and by means of force.

My viewpoint on the situation that has come about is this: I believe that a state of emergency should be introduced in the city. This will untie the hands, primarily of the law-enforcement bodies in the Chechen Republic, to normalize the situation by detaining the criminal groups in the city. At nighttime the city is, in effect, in the hands of criminals. Without having the legal regime of a state of emergency, we — and primarily the law-enforcement bodies of the Chechen Republic — are in an extremely difficult position.

The country's president has set us the tough task of implementing a set of measures that has been drawn up by the Security Council and we will carry out this task.

Rybkin Opposes State of Emergency Issue

LD0910091995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0906 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 9 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin made it clear Monday that the opposes the introduction of a state of emergency in Groznyy and proposed that "a compromise solution" should be found which would not be as severe as the emergency, but would make Chechen militants fulfil their disarmament commitments.

"In general, I feel uneasy about any emergencies", Rybkin told reporters Monday, but added, however, that "everything should be done so that people in Chechnya who possess weapons not by law, but by the right of force, should be put in their place".

"Maybe a compromise variant of restoring order in Chechnya should be found", Rybkin stressed, but did not elaborate.

The speaker welcomed the fact that the president is thoroughly assessing the situation before adopting the final decision on whether to introduce the state of emergency or not.

"The president is acting correctly by considering the proposal as he is now receiving contradictory information", Rybkin said.

He admitted that "there are people who are interested in disrupting the peaceful process in Chechnya", but did not elaborate.

Mikhaylov Welcomes Martial Law in Chechnya

LD0910171295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1602 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — The imposition of a state of emergency in Chechnya would not harm peaceful settlement in Chechnya but would make solution of numerous problems possible, Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, Russia's chief negotiator in Chechnya, told INTERFAX in Moscow Monday.

Mikhaylov emphasized that the state of emergency should be imposed in order to protect the civilian population. He made it clear that the federal authorities intend to continue talks with representatives of all real political forces in Chechnya.

Mikhaylov emphasized that if Dudayev's supporters are not helpful in having Shamil Basayev and his men brought to justice as provided for in the military agreement, the federal authorities will "make appropriate conclusions."

Mikhaylov regretted that Dudayev's supporters do not adhere to the agreed schedule of disarming illegal militias.

Maskhadov: Agreement 'Will Not Be Broken'

LD0910212995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1900 GMT on 9 October carries a Correspondent Arkadiy Mamontov report from Chechnya on the reaction there to the Russian Federal Command decision to suspend the military agreement with Chechnya. He reports that a joint sitting of the Chechen Government of National Rebirth and the Committee of National Accord failed to adopt a decision on introducing a state of emergency. Salambek Khadzhiyev refused to sign the order on a state of emergency on the grounds that his government does not have sufficient forces. "The government in Groznyy has 6,000 local militia men and they are armed with just around 400 machine guns and no other combat equipment," the correspondent said.

In a street interview, Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of Dzhokhar Dudayev's armed formations, says: "What does the introduction of a state of emergency mean? It means the agreement is broken because this agreement does not provide for any state of emergency. It is even written there that there cannot be any use of force, or even the threat of force. That is the most blatant violation of that agreement. And by every step it takes, the Russian side is giving grounds for that agreement not being fulfilled. I reiterate that for our part, no matter how tough it might be, no matter how difficult it might be, the agreement will not be broken as long as I am alive."

Proposal To Move OSCE From Groznyy Viewed

LD0910213495 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 1830 GMT 9 Oct 95

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russia has suspended the withdrawal of its troops from Chechnya where fighting has resumed again. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] On its satellite phone, "Newsreel" has called the head [Sandor Meszaros] of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] mission in Groznyy. He said the possibility of a new and large war cannot be ruled out. Sandor Meszaros is speaking from Groznyy:

[Meszaros] The situation is unfortunately very tense both in Groznyy and — as we know — in other parts of the republic as well. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The attempt on General Romanov's life, the attack against the OSCE mission in Groznyy on Saturday [7 October], and the warring sides' lack of confidence toward each other was cited by Meszaros to explain the resumption of fighting and an alleged Russian proposal to move the OSCE mission out of Groznyy. Meszaros is speaking:

[Meszaros] Since the situation is very tense today and the mission had been attacked we limited our movement to a minimum and thus we could not participate in the observing committee's session. This idea was allegedly brought up there by the Russian side. However, we have not received any official notification of this. [passage omitted]

SOC Proposed To Move From Groznyy

LD0910164795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1610 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Ruslan Maisigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, October 9 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian side suggested that members of the Special Observer Commission [SOC] from the Chechen side move out of town because the situation in the city has been strained, Movladi Udugov, Information Minister in the Dudayev government, told journalists on Monday immediately after the SOC meeting ended.

The Chechen side views the suggestion as an "illegitimate step," Udugov said.

For his part, Major-General Viktor Vlasenkov, deputy co-chairman of the SOC from the Russian side and deputy commander of the joint group of federal forces in Chechnya, declined to comment on the statement when meeting journalists.

The situation in Chechnya became aggravated after Lieutenant- General Anatoliy Romanov, commander of federal troops and co-chairman of the SOC from the Russian side had been heavily wounded in Groznyy on Friday as a result of a terrorist act.

Commission Awaiting 'Real' Disarmament

LD0910210695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1951 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — "Meetings of the Special Supervising Commission (SSC) will be suspended until real steps are taken to implement the military accord," the first assistant head of Russian civil administration in Chechnya, Vladimir Zorin, told INTERFAX Monday.

According to Zorin, Russian negotiators demanded practical disarmament steps at the commission meeting Monday, because "the disarmament schedule is not observed, while heavy arms are not handed over." "What is the use of meetings when there are no real results?" he added.

"Let SSC members work in their units and solve specific problems, or say they are powerless," he underlined.

Zorin said Russian negotiators had never announced that they suspended the bilateral military accord.

Prior to this, Major General Viktor Vlasenkov, Russian chief negotiator in the SSC, told journalists that the Monday SSC meeting had decided to suspend the accord following the assassination attempt on the SSC co-chairman, Lieutenant General Anatoliy Romanov.

At the same time, he underlined that the federal authorities had not completely refused the military accord.

Federal Troops Accused of Terrorism

LD0910171495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — Chechen negotiators at peace talks in Groznyy accused federal troops of terrorist acts against the republic's civilian population Monday.

The delegation handed a statement to their Russian counterparts, saying Russian aircraft dealt a missile and bomb strike on the village Roshni-Chu Sunday evening killing 28 and wounding 60 people. Federal armored vehicles shelled the village Mesker-Yurt on the same day, killing 12 and wounding 25 people.

"Therefore, our fears have been confirmed, that is military operations are resuming in Chechnya, the Russian side being totally responsible," according to the statement.

Dzhokhar Dudayev's spokesman, Movladi Udugov, told journalists Monday that Chechen negotiators had demanded the extradition of pilots who bombed Roshni-Chu.

Federal officers declined to comment on the statement referring to the lack of information.

However, a Russian Airforce spokesman refuted the reports on bombing Roshni-Chu in an interview with INTERFAX Monday. "We have been given no instructions to deal air strikes in Chechnya over the recent days," he added.

At the same time, an officer of the federal forces' press center told INTERFAX Monday that the Russian unit had to open fire near Mesker-Yurt in response to a rebel assault. The rebels burnt down a gasoline truck, killed its driver and wounded two more federal servicemen.

Forces Disrupting Peace Process Viewed

LD0910184495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1602 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — There are at least four forces, both in Moscow and Chechnya, interested in disruption of the peace process, a presidential expert, Arkadiy Popov, told INTERFAX Monday.

In the first place, he pointed to the so-called "parties of war," both in Russia and Chechnya, headed by "Moscow hawks" and field commanders like Shamil Basayev, who carried out a daring hostage-taking raid into southern Russia last June.

At the same time, Popov doubted that any high-ranking Moscow official could have been an instigator or accomplice of the terrorist acts in Groznyy, specifically the attempts upon the presidential representative in Chechnya, Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov, and Russian Troop Commander Anatoliy Romanov.

The tragic incident with Romanov and disruption of peace talks could be profitable for "those Chechen oppositionists who have no chances to retain their leading positions at the future elections." Among such politicians, Popov named Groznyy Mayor Beslan Gantemirov, a person "with a dubious, if not criminal past" and obscure political future.

"Corrupt officials and businessmen involved in the distribution and investment of funds set aside for restoration of Chechnya's economy" could make use of both resumed military operations and the "no peace, no war" state of affairs. Popov added that the probability of resumption of hostilities in the republic had sharply risen after the attempt upon Romanov.

Government Statement Issued on Chechnya

LD0610213995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2043 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 6 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Despite the talks on achieving a peace settlement, the situation in the Chechen Republic has been seriously exacerbated recent, a Russian government statement issued here today says.

The document notes that the agreed measures on the handover of weapons by the illegal armed formations have been thwarted. The killing of civilians and servicemen is continuing. Road blocks are being systematically fired on and vital public installations are being undermined.

On 19 September of this year, an attempt was made on the life of Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council and the Russian Federation president's plenipotentiary representative in the Chechen Republic, as well as the leadership of the Chechen Republic's government and Committee for National Accord.

As the result of a terrorist act in the town of Groznyy on 6 October, Lt-Gen Anatoliy Romanov, co-chairman of the special supervisory commission and commander of the joint group of federal troops in the Chechen Republic, was seriously wounded. Russian interior troops servicemen have been killed and wounded. Civilians have also been hurt.

The government of the Russian Federation expresses its deep condolences to the relatives and close friends of the killed and wounded and shares their grief.

This was yet another crime committed by those who are not interested in achieving peace and accord on Chechen soil, whose aim is to disrupt the agreement on a package of military issues which has been reached and who are pushing the Chechen Republic toward a fratricidal war yet again.

In view of the incessant provocations and a growing wave of sabotage and terrorist acts and attempts on people's lives, the government of the Russian Federation must take all necessary constitutional measures to ensure the safety of the population.

The Russian government considers that it is necessary in the situation that has arisen to introduce a state of emergency in the city of Groznyy.

The joint group of federal troops has been instructed to step up all necessary measures in respect of the illegal armed formations which are destabilizing the situation in the Chechen Republic by their actions and avoiding fulfilment of the agreement that was signed.

At the same time the Russian government confirms its readiness to continue the negotiating process and to hold a multilateral dialogue with all of Chechnya's internal socio-political forces that are striving for a peaceful resolution of the crisis, the statement emphasizes.

Grenade Hits OSCE Mission in Groznyy

LD0710150395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1418 GMT 7 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 7 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — At about 1000 GMT a shell was launched from a grenade-launcher at the OSCE mission in Groznyy. The shell came from the direction of Gagarin street, Chechen Republic Interior Minister Khamid Inalov told a joint sitting of the Committee of National Accord and the Chechen Government of National Rebirth. According to him, the shell was launched by an unidentified criminal who managed to escape. There are no casualties. The shell damaged the roof of the mission. Investigation bodies are working on the scene.

At about the same time two cars stuffed with explosives blew up in Oktyabrskiy district in the Chechen capital — a Zhiguli and a GAZ-53 truck. Fortunately, no one was hurt as a result of this act of intimidation.

According to the Chechen interior minister, the terrorists who committed an armed attack on the builders' hostel last night have not been found yet. According to the latest information, four men were brutally killed and three were wounded.

'Large-Scale' Military Operation Possibly Begun

LD0810053195 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With the onset of darkness an artillery cannonade became audible in the environs of Chechnya's capital Groznyy, INTERFAX reports. Local observers said combat operations are being conducted more actively than during previous days. The possibility of the federal forces having started a large-scale military operation against the illegal armed formations is not being ruled out in Groznyy. Security measures have been stepped up in the building of the territorial directorate of the federal bodies of executive power in Chechnya.

Meanwhile, INTERFAX was told at the press center of the joint group of the federal forces in Chechnya that the intensity of firing tonight is little different from previous nights.

Security Increased After Army HQ Attacked

LD0810133695 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1300 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The federal command in Groznyy is stepping up security measures in the Chechen capital today following last night's attack by fighters on the headquarters of the joint group of federal forces in Chechnya. A state of emergency may be introduced soon.

The condition of General Anatoliy Romanov, the commander of Russian troops in Chechnya is unchanged. He is still unconscious. Romanov, who was seriously injured in an act of terrorism in Groznyy, is currently in Moscow's Burdenko hospital. Vyacheslav Ardashev, the deputy chief physician at the hospital told Moscow Echo radio that Romanov's condition was extremely grave, and that his life hung in the balance today.

Military Denies Attack on HQ

LD0810161495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 8 (INTERFAX) — The press center of federal troops in Chechnya refuted media reports of a four-hour clash between federal forces and pro-Dudayev rebels in the Groznyy airport of Khankala in the night of October 7.

The statement followed some media reports of a rebel attack on Russian headquarters and a subsequent long clash.

A spokesman for the press center told INTERFAX that the rebels had attacked a Russian outpost in Khankala rather than the headquarters.

At the same time, he admitted that "the situation in Chechnya and its capital of Groznyy remained tense."

Rebels "periodically open fire at federal positions, checkpoints and commandant's offices," he added. Over 20 such attacks were registered in Groznyy and its suburbs alone.

Three Russian servicemen were wounded by an anti-infantry mine in Groznyy earlier this afternoon. All of them were taken to hospital.

Chechen Field Commander Reportedly Killed

LD0810161995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 8 (INTERFAX) — According to yet unconfirmed information, Chechen field commander Alaudi Khamzatov, 39 years old, was killed near the Mairtup (not Maitrup as it was erroneously reported - IF) in 40 kilometers to the east of Groznyy on Saturday morning.

Local residents told Chechen law enforcement officers that a Jeep car, in which Khamzatov was, had been burnt by a shot from a flame-thrower. According to eyewitnesses, all those who were in the car, died.

Well-informed sources in Chechen law enforcement organs told INTERFAX that a car following the one with Khamzatov had also been destroyed.

Local residents believe that Khamzatov had been killed because of bloody vengeance as he had earlier murdered 12 Chechens from the Nozhay-Yurt and Vedeno regions.

However, a source in Chechen law enforcement organs said Khamzatov might have staged his murder in order to hide himself from law enforcement or those seeking bloody vengeance in the future.

The same source said law enforcement officers were currently trying to establish whether Khamzatov had been in the Jeep at the moment of the attack.

Khamzatov became known after he took command of the operation aimed at seizing the district police department in the town of Argun several months ago. Khamzatov then proclaimed himself the town's commandant appointed by Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Lobov: Chechnya Still Main Problem Area

MM0610142795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Oct 95 pp 1-2

[Interview with Oleg Lobov, secretary of the Russian Security Council and plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation president in the Chechen Republic, by Vitaliy Strugovets in Groznyy; date not given; under the "Presidential Hierarchy" rubric: "Oleg Lobov: Chechnya Remains a Problem Area for Russia" — first two paragraphs are KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction, next two are Strugovets introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA continues the series of materials under the "Presidential Hierarchy" rubric. In previous items we talked about the work of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff Information Administration, the Commission on Questions of Citizenship Under the Russian Federation President, the Russian Federation president's plenipotentiary representative to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly....

Our column's guest today is Oleg Ivanovich Lobov, secretary of the Russian Security Council and plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation president in the Chechen Republic.

[Strugovets introduction] Although I had obtained before leaving Moscow an agreement in principle for a meeting with Oleg Lobov, plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation president in the Chechen Republic and secretary of the Russian Security Council, here in Groznyy it proved to be no easy matter to get an audience with him. Oleg Ivanovich's press secretary and aide simply shrugged: They would be glad to help, but as you can see, the plenipotentiary representative's work schedule is so packed....

It is a characteristic of Lobov's not to want to impose his own will in a matter in which he is not an expert. In particular, on military questions. Although, as secretary of the Security Council, Oleg Ivanovich knows quite a lot about the Army's problems. And he assesses its actions accordingly.

[Lobov] The question of assessing the Army's actions in the Chechen conflict is very complex. Let us take it stage by stage. Yes, in the initial period the Army operated selflessly. In the struggle against the bandit formations it earned every praise. Remember that these were young people gaining experience in the course of combat operations. There are plenty of examples of selflessness in fulfilling military duty, particularly on the part of commanding officers. It is clearly no accident that the percentage of losses among officers is very high compared to overall losses. This indicates that the officers, seeking to protect the lives of their subordinates, the young inexperienced soldiers, not infrequently sacrificed themselves deliberately. And this aspect of the Army's actions undoubtedly merits every understanding and support.

But now we have a lull. Time to look around and analyze your own actions and the mistakes you made.

And unfortunately there are plenty of them too. Many have already been spoken about. They include instances of, at times, unjustified destruction in settlements when it would have been possible to get by with localized actions and special operations or to resolve the problems that arose through talks.... Unfortunately, there were such cases. Including in Groznyy. The nature of the destruction, in my view, indicates that it would have been possible to act more skillfully, let's say with more precision, in certain districts.

What I would like to focus on now is that the Army is becoming, on the one hand, a factor for stabilization, and on the other hand an irritant factor. And of course, the former factor must be reinforced and the latter reduced. How? First and foremost, I believe, the stationing of army subunits must be local, and the Army must gradually reduce its spheres of influence. Although not, of course, all at once.

Probably the conditions of daily life and combat training, the conditions of soldiers' adaptation to the Chechen Republic, should also be special, taking into account the military-political and social atmosphere here. Try as we might, we cannot isolate the Army from society here. The use of common transport arteries, for instance, for the movement of convoys or maneuvers by combat hardware can lead, albeit rarely, to tragic road accidents. Incautious handling of weapons by servicemen in settlements and at blockhouses is also a far from favorable factor. In order to ensure that this happens less often, we must certainly provide proper facilities for servicemen. First and foremost for those who are staying in the Chechen Republic on permanent deployment. This is, as you will understand, the work of many months.

Work on fitting out a military camp for this motorized infantry brigade in the region of Groznyy's "Severnyy" airport is going more or less successfully. Things are not so good in Khankal, at the No. 15 military camp, where subunits of the Russian MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] internal troops are to be stationed.

But apart from the billeting of the actual troops, we must also think about questions of accommodations for officers and the provision of firing ranges and training grounds. After all, these will be "special-purpose" forces. That means their training should be special too. Let me stress, this is not only because this is Chechnya. It is Russia's southern border too. And similar, special, requirements must also be made on troop units stationed in Krasnodar Kray and throughout the North Caucasus Military District.

[Strugovets] You, the secretary of the Security Council, have been appointed plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation president in Chechnya and have been in Groznyy for more than a month know. Does this mean that there is no greater problem for Russia's security today than events in the Chechen Republic?

[Lobov] That is indeed so. And this was specified at a Russian Security Council session, specified by the Russian Federation president. Chechnya is Russia's biggest problem area. Here the question of the state's unity and territorial integrity is being tackled, as well as the question of interethnic relations. It is not at its most acute here, but it exists, and we must not conceal that.

We know how substantial the number of refugees from the Chechen Republic is. And this, believe me, is not due solely to the military operations on its territory. The departure of certain population categories from Chechnya, first and foremost Russian speakers, began long before December 1995. And it was associated with anomalies in the republic's sociopolitical life and the mutual relations among the population. This was also influenced by historical events (remember the Caucasian wars of czarist Russia, the revolutionary fighting in the Caucasus, the deportation of Chechens in 1944), and ultimately with socioeconomic factors. We can count in this last category the absence of an infrastructure in the mountain regions of Chechnya, the high unemployment percentage, and social stratification between the northern and southern regions of the republic. All this did much to promote the outbreak of conflict. And now it is hampering its resolution.

[Strugovets] The restoration of Chechnya's ravaged economy requires, first and foremost, huge financial resources. People say that there are considerable problems with this.

[Lobov] I will go further: In August the financing of restoration work in Chechnya was virtually completely derailed. Nearly all the construction workers were owed two months' wages. As a result some of the construction subunits left Groznyy. But now things are being put right. And provided we can keep up today's pace of money transfers for the next five to 10 days, we will be close to receiving 2.5 times more funds than in August. These are very significant sums. Some 300 billion rubles is supposed to be received for payment of compensation to victims alone.

[Strugovets] What is the reason for the financial hitches?

[Lobov] There are several reasons. First, the weakened leadership here in Chechnya. Second, the crisis in the banking system, whereby commercial banks stopped financial transactions among themselves and with clients without having fulfilled their commitments. Third and last, the Finance Ministry did not fulfill its commitments. Looking, in my opinion, for illusory savings, the financiers decided to stop inflation by not issuing wages on time. But how can that be possible? Inflation will carry on just the same, even if it is a month or two late. And by delaying the payment of wages we are not stimulating production but disrupting it, and that will eventually result in the growth of inflation again. As a result of penny-pinching, you end up paying twice.

[Strugovets] The main question for Chechnya today is the question of power. The crisis situation can only be overcome with the help of democratic elections. Are they a possibility this year?

[Lobov] I don't think that is very likely. The majority of political leaders are coming to the conclusion that elections to the local organs in Chechnya should coincide with the elections to the Russian State Duma, but this need not necessarily take place 17 December. It would be better to hold the elections a bit later. But certainly together. I agree with that proposal.

And another point: The elections will only be democratic given the absence of illegal armed formations in the region. That means that they must take place after disarmament, in the context of a greater stabilization of the situation.

[Strugovets] And how do you assess the current course of the disarmament process?

[Lobov] Unsatisfactory. It leaves much to be desired. That is why we are now busy looking for ways to step up the disarmament process. In particular, the financial question of buying up weapons has been resolved. The prime minister has agreed to my request to allocate additional funding for this. We will receive an additional 10 billion rubles. According to our calculations, that should be enough to buy up approximately 15,000 firearms.... [Lobov ends]

Staffers at the Security Council apparatus are grumbling: The Security Council secretary is not a firefighter, they say. It is not his job to "put out" the fire of conflicts and restore ruined cities. But Lobov seems to have returned enthusiastically to his native element, construction work. Where everything is familiar to him. Where he is a professional. And even the specific job — restoring the ruins — is nothing new. There is the experience of Spitak, where Oleg Ivanovich was in charge of the headquarters for the city's restoration [after Armenian earthquake].

But it would be a mistake to represent him as solely an economic manager today. In Chechnya, every move is politics. Shellings, rallies, restoration of the economy — he is responsible for all of it. It is for him to decide what countermeasures to take, who to call to account, what to bring to the fore. And he does decide.

Chechen-Ingush Parliament Opens After Four Years

LD0710112795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1123 GMT 7 Oct 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, October 7 (ITAR-TASS) — Following a four-year interval, the parliament of the Chechen-Ingush Republic presided by Doku Zavgayev sat in session in Groznyy on Saturday.

Chairman of the Chechen government of national revival Salambek Kadzhiyev called this action as illegal. He addressed former legislators and then left the auditorium.

"I was invited to a people's assembly and not to a session," Khadzhiyev said. The resumption of work by parliament runs counter to the Russian Constitution. To create two legislative bodies in Chechnya is dangerous and irrelevant, he stressed. The cabinet head noted that "ex-deputies are driving a wedge into the dying people".

In September 1991, "storm troopers" of separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev had dispersed the parliament of the Chechen-Ingush Republic. In June 1992, Ingushetia had proclaimed its independence.

Nevertheless, 122 ex-deputies who sat in session (quorum is 117) announced their powers legal. They adopted a statement denouncing the terrorist act on October 6 when Anatoliy Romanov, commander of federal troops in Chechnya, was badly wounded. Ex-deputies called on the Chechen people to be vigilant.

The session recognised as legitimate the division of the Chechen-Ingush Republic into Chechnya and Ingushetia and transformed the parliament of the Chechen-Ingush Republic into the parliament of the Chechen Republic composed of deputies elected from Groznyy and Chechen districts.

Deputies also recognised that the legislature will exercise its powers till new elections and the first session of a newly elected body. Deputies agreed that territorial and border issues between Chechnya and Ingushetia should be settled through negotiations under a mutual treaty between the republics after elections.

Zavgayev told ITAR-TASS here today that there is a vacuum of power in Chechnya now. It would be wrong to say that power is being handed over from some people to others. He claimed that power should be created constitutionally, through elections.

According to Zavgayev, "deputies do not shoulder executive functions: our aim is to carry out elections constitutionally".

Ossetian-Ingush Talks Described As 'Complex'

LD0910154695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIKAVKAZ, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — Deputy Chairman of Russia's Interim State Committee for Eliminating Consequences of the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict has declared in an interview with INTERFAX that the situation at Ossetian-Ingush talks is "complex but far from being deadlocked." As Anatoliy Leontyev believes, now on the threshold of the third anniversary of the armed conflict both sides "have got much tired from the confrontation."

He reported that a meeting had been planned at a State Committees initiative for later this week with committee experts and North Ossetian and Ingush Prime Ministers to take part to discuss all the disputable issues.

Earlier, Ingushetia's government delegation came up with a statement, charging the Ossetian side "of intentionally delaying negotiations to suspend the process of returning forced Ingush resettlers back to North Ossetia." In the Ingush side's opinion, the North Ossetian leadership "has arbitrarily limited the number of communities where it allows refugees to return."

Economic Issues

Economy Minister on Likely Foreign Debt Restructuring

LD0910150195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1231 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — An agreement on restructuring the Russian foreign debt can be reached by March 1996, Economy Minister Yevgeniy Yasin told INTERFAX Monday. He is in Washington with the Russian delegation to the annual session of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

He said considerable progress was reached on the question during the meeting of G7 finance ministers and chairmen of central banks last Saturday.

"The atmosphere of the meeting was generally much better than at the previous forum last spring when the Russian delegation was tried to make report on its economic policy. This time everything was different," Yasin said.

"We received assurances that an impetus would be given to work on long-term and comprehensive restructuring of the Russian debt," he said.

Western colleagues congratulated the Russian delegation on a considerable improvement of key macroeconomic indices, Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov said. He believes that the readiness of G7 to speed up the restructuring process is extremely important for Russia because the 1996 draft budget is based on the assumption that Moscow will not have to pay $8 billion in foreign debts.

U.S. Official Backs Chubays' Moves To Reschedule Debt

LD1010073195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0717 GMT 10 Oct 95

By Andrey Loshchilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, October 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian First Vice-premier Anatoliy Chubays who came to the American capital for the autumn session of the governing bodies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, held talks with U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin on Monday.

The sides discussed prospects for changing the schedule of serving the Russian foreign debt to the Paris Club of major world creditors from annual to mid-term, that is for stretching payments over 25 years.

Rubin backed the idea, pointing to encouraging stabilisation signs in the microeconomic situation in Russia. On his part, Chubays stressed that the mid-term reorganisation is not linked with Moscow's implementation of its present debt obligations.

"Russia has always been a dependable borrower," he stressed. "We shall fulfill all obligations, both Russian and those of the former Soviet Union, this and next year," he noted.

Chubays Says Macroeconomic Situation Improved

LD0910214395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2112 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Andrey Loshchilin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, October 9 (ITAR-TASS) — "One has to pay a rather high price in social welfare sector for reforms," First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays of Russia said on Monday in his remarks at a meeting of the Development Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

"It is important that this should not become an obstacle to the creation of an effective market economy and democratic society. An improvement of the macroeconomic situation in Russia gives ground for optimism in this respect," he said.

"The first half of the 1990s has been the period of a serious social crisis. We consider that one of the common features of countries with transitional economies is the need to effect a comprehensive social strategy aimed not only at protecting the most vulnerable groups of the population but also at keeping the earlier gained valuable human capital," said Chubays who is the IMF and World Bank Governor from the Russian Federation.

Earlier, at a meeting of the Interim Committee of the IMF Board of Governors, Chubays emphasised that "according to current forecasts, economic growth in Russia and, possibly, in Ukraine will resume in 1996." However, he said, "it is so far too early to speak about a successful completion of reforms."

"In a number of cases, macroeconomic stabilisation measures have failed to curb inflation down to an acceptable level. This is, possibly, the consequence of an adjustment of pricing disbalances after the economy was rendered open to the outside world.

"Neither it is ruled out that efforts to maintain a more or less fixed exchange rate of the national currency in the light of an unexpectedly large influx of capital is conducive to an excess of money mass," Chubays pointed out.

Finance Minister Panskov on 1995, 1996 Budgets

MK0710121495 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed interview with Russian Federation Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov; place and date not given: "Everything Is Interrelated in Life. The More So, in the Budget" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A key question at the State Duma's fourth session will definitely be the consideration of next year's budget. The chances that — for the first time in the history of post-Soviet Russia — next year's budget will be adopted before the current year is out can be viewed in different ways. Still, one thing is already clear: To ensure the budget's passage before 17 December, the government is prepared to do almost anything. It is prepared to put up with the nerve-racking business of yet another vote of no confidence; it is prepared to hear any vilification from the deputies; it is prepared to go all out for the sake of these 900 pages of fine print. Are all these sacrifices really worthwhile? It is hard to say for certain, but the White House has already scored one victory: The working group preparing the budget for consideration in parliament has completed its work. True, only the first, the weakest level of resistance has been overcome so far. The results of the group's performance and prospects for the 1996 budget's passage through parliament are analyzed by Russian Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] The working group has virtually completed its work on the budget; the results are more or less clear, and it is evident that a very serious and difficult discussion lies ahead for you in the Duma. Apparently, the main positive outcome of its work is that the State Duma will discuss the budget. Now what, in your opinion, are the negative results of the group's performance?

[Panskov] I am upset that the working group has seriously discussed the problem of an alternative budget. And not just an alternative budget: The problem is not so much its basic figures or principles of organization as that the budget should be built on an entirely different economic forecast. And this was stated at the very first session of the working group, when the forecast of the country's economic and social development for next year was discussed.

As is known, our draft budget proceeds from a monthly inflation rate of 1.2 percent on average. The deputies propose to assume a 5-percent monthly inflation level. In other words, the task that is being assigned is to speed up inflation and thus increase the budget deficit. Therefore, we are being pushed to seek Central Bank credits. This means abandoning the line that we worked out together with the Duma and the Federation Council in the 1995 budget: to give up centralized credits. I do not understand the Duma's position in this respect. They are trying to deviate from the line which we have approved together and which has shown its effectiveness and viability. This is first.

Second. What is being proposed? Introducing a new tax. To be more accurate, the tax burden is to be increased for practically everybody, primarily the most disadvantaged sections of the population. What is 5-percent monthly inflation? Roughly, a 120-percent rise in prices next year. Who will be hurt by this? Those who earn little today, because for those who earn very much this will pass unnoticed. It will affect schools, hospitals, culture, the mass media — all who get money from the budget and cannot earn a living otherwise. They will be paying 120 percent more. Do the deputies want that? We don't. Therefore, the government's position here is a matter of principle. We will not agree to a greater budget deficit and higher inflation.

Third. There is a government program for 1995-1997. We have worked out a line that should be followed for the next three years. If the intention is to push us off this line, this means the end of the programs on which we are now working. We will not agree to this.

One final thing, which may not be so important for the man in the street but which is very important for the country's economy. Let us suppose that the budget is drawn up assuming 5-percent monthly inflation. What will this lead to? Today we have envisioned the implementation of our obligations to international financial organizations, foreign states, and banks in the amount of $8 billion, in spite of the fact that in 1996 we are due to pay $16 billion on all our obligations. We are counting, quite reasonably, on debt restructuring, as was the case with the 1995 budget. The budget was adopted later; the restructuring occurred later, and we lost three months and are therefore suffering from it now. We want the restructuring to happen in December; the negotiations are slowly beginning to unfold, and if inflation is going to be that high, nobody will agree to this restructuring then. Nobody will agree to defer debts and reduce interest on them for a country that rushes to extremes and is unable to look ahead. This means that our expenditures on extinguishing all these debts will instantly increase by 80-90 trillion rubles. Where will this money come from? This is first — second, we have included, although on a substantially smaller scale than last year, credits from international organizations. But credits — and our entrepreneurs know this very well — are issued only for coherent programs with effective guarantees that these credits will be repaid. If we fail to follow the line we are following today, there will be no guarantee of repayment, and nobody will give us these credits. Moreover, 5-percent inflation means renunciation of all our guarantees, the guarantees of repayment; it is the renunciation of the line, the policy, the reform. This concerns me the most. All the other deputies' comments are within the framework of the negotiating process, and it is quite possible to work with this unless there is the confrontation I have spoken about earlier.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] In effect, the State Duma's attempt to revise the inflation forecast for 1995 was quite predictable. This was the case last year, and even in 1992 and 1993. Did you anticipate it?

[Panskov] I will explain. We are being reproached for the fact that in the 1995 budget and in next year's draft budget the government created some reserves for itself by artificially lowering inflation forecasts. Allegedly, we are trying to use this as a source of additional funds and divert them for purposes not provided for in the budget. For instance, we have assumed 1.2-percent inflation, but in actual fact it will be 3 percent. And so we will derive additional incomes from this. But then expenditures will also need to be increased. More will have to be paid to hospitals and schools, because their expenditures will grow. Second, we are strictly limited by the scope of the budget law, which says that any additional kopeck shall be distributed as the lawmakers see fit, and the government is not laying claim to this. The government does not need reserves per se in this respect. We have no power to make expenditures that are not envisioned in the budget. In today's situation we are not raising enough funds to cover the deficit, because we restructured our debts and received the standby [preceding word in English] loan later than we should have.

I think that alternative projects are rather of a populist nature, and they will be actually destroyed by this populism.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] You say that the government's position is consistent. Can you speak on behalf of the whole government or is this only the position of the Finance Ministry?

[Panskov] In this case I have every right to speak about the position of the government as a minister who is authorized to work with the Duma. Second, I proceed from the results of the budget discussion at government sessions.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] In this connection, how substantiated is the government's firm intention to press for the budget to be approved before the end of the year? Is it not in the interests of the budget for its approval to be moved to a later date?

[Panskov] Absolutely not. The government will insist that the budget be adopted this year. Why, you may ask? The reason is very simple: the election. Tomorrow a new Duma will come and will start everything anew. I remember the 1994 Duma. If you compare it with the Duma of late 1995, these are, as they say in Odesa, two great differences! This is a totally different parliament. It was virtually impossible to work with the former. Today it is quite a different Duma; they are reasonable people. I am not trying to accuse anybody. This is a natural process for any country. A new person comes. Earlier he was an apparatchik, a businessman, and so forth, and then he became a statesman overnight. He thinks that he is ready to change the world. He has never confronted such problems, and he does not yet understand how everything is interrelated: You poke into this budget — and it falls apart even if you only make a tiny little amendment. Everything is interrelated in life; the more so, in the budget. Therefore if this budget is not adopted this year, it will not be adopted until the end of next year. I am quite confident about this. Work on the 1996 budget will have to begin from scratch.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] What is the likelihood that the budget will be approved in a shape quite different than what was presented by the government (political interests of various factions can take precedence over purely rational considerations)?

[Panskov] There can be several scenarios here. First, the nonadoption of the budget as such. I mean a general rejection — something like a sit-down strike. The Duma is working, but nothing is moving. This is the worst case scenario. The second scenario: rejection on first reading, the creation of a conciliation committee, and then the process moves along normally. I will not be very surprised if it is not adopted on its first reading. The third scenario is the development of an alternative budget, which the Duma will not be able to draw up. It will be unable to do so even if the Accounting Chamber or the Finance Ministry help it — I mean, quickly enough. This option is doomed to fail.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] In other words, three options, all in all.

[Panskov] Yes, apparently so. A total rejection; a rejection of the budget on its first reading, after which normal coordination procedures will be set in motion; and the development of an alternative budget. But I still think that common sense will prevail at the end of the day.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] You believe that the budget will be adopted before 1 January after all?

[Panskov] I do not think so. I rate the probability of this happening at 60 percent.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] What instruments do you have to influence the deputy corps?

[Panskov] We are being told, "You should work with the deputies, engage in lobbying activity." Right, we should, and we will. But again, what does working with the deputies mean — working with factions, committees? What is it? This is normal work, when ministers, their deputies, and department chiefs come and explain what will happen if a particular proposal is adopted. Not every deputy is able to understand the 900 pages of the budget if only owing to the time factor, let alone the fact that there are some things which even I do not understand on first reading, although I actually drew up this budget. This is only natural. One person cannot know everything. Therefore, it simply needs to be explained that this particular proposal will result in such and such consequences. In other words, normal work lies ahead. On some counts certain concessions will have to be made to the factions, as was the case last year.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] In what areas can you make concessions?

[Panskov] Well, I cannot tell now, because so far I have not seen their comments. But judging from last year's experience, for example, we increased expenditures for agriculture. We worked together with the deputies and saw at whose expense that could be done. We added something to the social sphere. We also looked at the problem of retiring the previous year's debt.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] It is critical here to ensure the uniformity of government positions....

[Panskov] The question is not the unity of the government — the government is united. But the government is comprised of ministries. This is inevitable, because if I said that there are sufficient funds in the budget for, say, the social sphere, I would simply tell a lie. Funds are scarce. There are more than in 1995, but not enough just the same. Wherever you look, there is not enough money. Therefore, I understand department chiefs when they say, "Let us look at particular articles once again." What is this? This is not disagreement within the government. It is normal work.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] Do you rule out the syndrome of departmental lobbying?

[Panskov] I don't.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] The ministries will in effect begin attacking the budget expenditures.

[Panskov] It's not the attack that matters. It is perfectly normal when the Defense Committee invites, say, Defense Ministry experts for consultations and they analyze the budget together. But when a deputy defense minister (I am citing this ministry just as an example) tells the deputies, "Help me push this through," this is wrong, but there is no way it can be stopped. This has been so, and nobody will be able to change it. Although, on the other hand, what happens if he engages in lobbying activity? I do not see this as a particular problem: After all, this is all normal work.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] It will not stop you from standing your ground?

[Panskov] The budget will be criticized on all sides in any event, whether or not the ministries are lobbying for something. The Defense Committee will press for more defense expenditures; "Women of Russia" will insist on increasing social expenditures, and so forth. They will! Regardless of whether or not the ministers encourage them, they will insist just the same. This is a natural process. But we will have to take a critical look. So you propose that social spending be increased? Very well. But then let us cut defense spending. Go ahead and press for the military's downsizing. These are all possible options, but they should be adopted in the process of discussing and weighing the consequences of a particular decision. This is a normal procedure. But we will not have what we had in 1994 — this I guarantee — when ministers spoke in the course of parliamentary hearings or on some other occasion and said, "We presented our case to the government, but they did not heed us; we believe that this is wrong." This will not happen again! I am sure of it! There will be lobbying; there sure will, but a civilized one.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] Now a more technical question. How can the execution of the 1995 budget affect implementation of the 1996 budget? To all appearances, there are, to put it mildly, some problems with this.

[Panskov] Indeed. Our 1996 draft budget already includes, say, funds to repay credits to the capital construction sector. We understand very well that we will not be able to finance this sector by 100 percent. In all likelihood, we will not manage to retire the outstanding debts on the defense production order in full — to my greatest regret — especially considering that a portion of them was carried over from 1994. There is definitely no way they can be retired. Therefore, we envisioned funds for debt redemption in the 1996 budget. We will run into difficulties — serious difficulties — unless the budget is approved in 1995: with credits, debt restructuring, and so forth. A very serious problem is the debt of federal budget-funded organizations. Unfortunately, this knot cannot be easily untangled. So far, this debt has been growing. Now we are taking active measures to ensure mutual debt clearing. Roughly, today our electric power stations owe money to the federal budget, whereas federal agencies funded from the federal budget also owe money to these power stations. Mutual debts should be forgiven; in other words, they, as it were, go through the motions of remitting the money to the budget, while we go through the motions of funding the social sphere, and it will go through the motions of returning the money. This is synonymous to money coming in, but without it actually coming in. We forgive the power stations their debts; the social sphere forgives us our debts, and the power stations forgive the social sphere its debts. This is mutual debt clearing, which does not require money, but which will help solve these problems. In the fourth quarter we will try to undertake massive operations along these lines so as to alleviate the state of the 1996 budget. There are also some other plans. I can only say (because at present there is no corresponding mechanism, but only an idea — still in a very raw form) that this involves the issue of a kind of tax relief bond, which would allow you to buy this paper and relieve yourself of the burden of debts to the budget accumulated over a number of years. I don't know if this idea will be translated into life, but the departments have received such instructions from me.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] And all this is in 1995?

[Panskov] Yes, in 1995! Today we are like in a state of emergency.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] So what is the most important thing for you: the execution of the 1995 budget or the adoption of the 1996 budget?

[Panskov] The most important thing is probably the 1996 budget. Unless it is adopted this year, next year we will have to live without a budget.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] Do you think that this is a more important problem than the execution of the 1995 budget?

[Panskov] I certainly do. Whether it is good or bad, this is a 1995 budget, and 1995 is running out. We will apply titanic efforts to improve and facilitate its execution, but there are only three more months to go, whereas the 1996 budget means a whole year ahead, and the country without a budget....

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] It is very nice to hear this, because earlier this year many thought the 1995 budget would collapse.

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY] I would not assess 1995 quite so optimistically, although it is a very difficult year. [sentence as published] But you are right: It has not collapsed, although there have been so many problems and shortfalls.... You have seen my reception office: This will continue until 1100. When everything is normal, a finance minister does not have so many people in his reception room. If there are so many people in the reception room, this means that something is wrong, that there are problems somewhere. This is bad!

U.S. Corporation Invests in Gold Mining Company

MM1010104395 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Oct 95 p 16

[Unattributed report: "Gold Miners Get $100 Million"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the American Private Investment Corporation have granted the Omolonskaya Gold Mining Company credit worth $100 million. The project payback time is three years (1998-2001).

The other day a tripartite agreement was signed "On the Russian Blocked Account" between the "Russian Credit" bank, the Omolonskaya Gold Mining Company, and the Russian Federation Committee for Precious Metals and Precious Stones regulating the terms of the supply of gold and and precious metal alloys by the Omolonskaya company to the Russian Federation committee.

It is worth noting that the U.S. side originally insisted on a Western bank, but the gold miners opted for a Russian bank.

Given the shortage of investments, such impressive targeted investment of private Western capital in the Russian gold mining industry is certainly an unusual event. But the foreign investor clearly does not intend to revitalize Russia; he simply wants to obtain revenue, which is what this project will provide. The Omolonskaya Gold Mining Company is the first enterprise in the sector in which foreign capital is involved (50 percent of it belongs to the U.S. "Cyprus-Magadan" venture).

Bidding Set for Far East Diamond Rights

MM1010092195 Moscow IZVESTIYA (Financial Section) in Russian 5 Oct 95 p 2

[PRAYM report: "Arkhangelsk Oblast Announces Diamond Exploration Tender"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Committee for Geology and the Use of Natural Resources and the Arkhangelsk Oblast Administration have announced a tender for the rights to the geological prospecting of the Tovskaya Area and to the subsequent development of any diamond deposits found there, the EKONOMICHESKIYE I PRAVOVYYE VOPROSY NEDROPOLZOVANIYA V ROSSII bulletin reports. The Tovskaya Area (1,000 square meters of Maritime Kray) is part of the Zimneberezhnyy diamond-bearing region. Previous geological prospecting work there established a whole series of direct and indirect criteria testifying to the high likelihood of diamond deposits being found here. Applications can be made until 1 December. The results of the tender will be summed up by the end of the year.

Government Still Awaiting Grain Credits From Banks

LD1010114895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 10 (INTERFAX) — Commercial banks have extended the government only 1 trillion rubles out of the 3 trillion rubles the government counts on to purchase grain for the federal food fund. The sum has been allocated against the Finance Ministry's guarantees, Russia's First Deputy Minister for Agriculture Vladimir Shcherbak told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview Tuesday. He said that on September 29, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a government resolution on financing purchases to the federal food fund.

The resolution instructs the Finance Ministry to "provide commercial banks with guarantees that the Federal Food Corporation's credit of 3 trillion rubles will be repaid." The credit is to be repaid with interest, from the 1995 federal budget (as part of the domestic state debt) by June 1, 1996.

Shcherbakov said that initially, commercial banks were ready to extend the government the entire credit. However, the banking crisis changed their plans and made them more cautious, the more so since the credit is to be put into agriculture.

The Ministry for Agriculture reports that the government purchased 7.2 million tonnes of grain by the beginning of October, including 618,000 tonnes for the federal food fund (to be used for supplying the extreme north, the armed forces and the Interior Ministry units). This amount includes 249,000 tonnes of wheat, out of the 8.6 million tonnes actually needed.

The grain storage centers have received 2.3 million tonnes of grain, including 95,000 tonnes of bread grain. The rest of the grain out of the 61 million tonnes provided by the beginning of the week is stored with gross violations of the storage rules — directly by agricultural producers or by commercial organizations.

International Affairs

Udovenko Criticizes Russia's CIS Policy

LD0610223395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1955 GMT 6 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 6 (Interfax) - The Kiev newspaper Nezavisimost (Independence) published a confidential letter from Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko to President Leonid Kuchma, where he negatively assessed Russia's recently adopted CIS policy.

According to the letter, the Foreign Ministry needs to estimate the maximally acceptable level of Ukraine's economic dependance on Russia, compile a list of enterprises closely linked with the Russian economy and work on a joint approach to CIS issues with other CIS states, whose CIS policy is close to that of Ukraine.

"Russia does not plan to build relations with CIS states in accordance with norms of international law, on the basis of respect of their territorial integrity, sovereignty and non-interference in their internal affairs," according to the document.

Udovenko underlined that the so-called "integration" hyped so much by Yeltsin's relevant decree "in practice spells washing out CIS states' sovereignty, making their activities subordinate to Russia's interests and restoration of a centralized superpower."

Russia may try to implement its earlier declared intention to proclaim the Ukrainian state bankrupt and demand the debt be repaid with its property, he added.

Udovenko also cited a number of measures Moscow is likely to resort to, including "property claims to transfer the system of main pipelines and gas storages, controlling stakes in the key enterprises, etc."

Meanwhile, an Interfax - Ukraine correspondent reported that Udovenko had voiced his regret over the publication Thursday.

Udovenko told journalists that the letter had been written "as part of preliminary work."

Udovenko said he will "strictly investigate the publication case in the Foreign Ministry."

Udovenko Seen Rallying Other CIS States Against Moscow

MK0710144795 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 7 Oct 95 p 4

[Report by Viktor Zamyatin: "The Minister's Letter Has Found Its Reader"]

[FBIS Translated Text] NEZAVISIMOST, a Kiev-based newspaper, has published a letter by Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko to President Leonid Kuchma. This sort of correspondence is, of course, confidential, particularly so this letter: In effect, this is "our reply to Chamberlain" [a strong negative response to an ultimatum], for it contains an assessment of Boris Yeltsin's recently announced "strategic line" in relations with CIS countries.

Generally speaking, there is nothing particularly unexpected about the letter — Kiev has been repeating at all levels that Russia does not see Ukraine as an equal partner and will not do so in the near future. The same is said in the minister's letter: "Russia does not intend to develop its relations with CIS countries on the basis of international law." Meanwhile, further integration within the Commonwealth, the need for which Moscow has been emphasizing on every occasion (and which was one of Leonid Kuchma's key electoral slogans), is leading to the watering down of CIS countries' sovereignty, subordination of their interests to those of Russia, and the recreation of a centralized superpower, Udovenko believes. The Foreign Ministry also warns the president about the realistic nature of Moscow's recent threat to call Ukraine a bankrupt country and to demand that all its debts be paid off in Ukrainian assets. Since all this runs counter to Ukrainian interests, the minister proposes a number of emergency measures.

What is needed first of all is collaboration with the states whose views on the CIS are similar to those of Ukraine in order to devise a joint approach to various problems of the Commonwealth. These states are not mentioned in the letter, but they are well known: Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Moldova. The head of the Ukrainian foreign service also thinks it necessary to calculate the upper limit of Ukraine's economic dependence on Russia and to spot the enterprises and industries that are actually linked to the Russian economy and will be unable to function on their own. The letter asserts that, as a matter of fact, Russia may well demand Ukrainian gas industry assets (pipelines and storage facilities) and shares in key Ukrainian enterprises as payment for Ukrainian debts. Yet, Leonid Kuchma has repeatedly stated that he will not allow anything like that to happen.

NEZAVISIMOST did Udovenko a disservice — a scandal arose. Meanwhile, Udovenko's meeting with Andrey Kozyrev, on which the two ministers could agree only in New York, is scheduled for 13 October. Kiev expects much from the meeting: It should clarify, for instance, what line Moscow will take after Boris Yeltsin's words about Ukraine's penchant for bending agreements in its favor and Kuchma's resolute disagreement with this statement.

Now, after the publication of Udovenko's letter, Moscow appears to have obtained yet another moral trump card, for it can say that the game against it is not being played honestly. A moral trump alone may prove to be insufficient, however. But then one will have to admit that Udovenko was right to some extent after all.

Marchuk: Kiev Intends To Become Full Member of CEI

WS0910145895 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
1345 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Viktoria Kulakova, "Special to IntelNews"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct 8 — Ukraine intends to join the Central European Initiative [CEI] as a full member, Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk announced over the weekend.

Ukraine presently has associate status in the organization.

Speaking to reporters in Kiev late Saturday [7 October] night, following his return from a two-day Polish visit in which he participated in a meeting of the group's government leaders and foreign ministers, the prime minister said the move had the full support of central European leaders.

"We consider the integration of Ukraine into the world's political and economic system to be one of the most important guarantees of preserving our sovereignty and independence," Marchuk told fellow CEI leaders on Saturday in Warsaw.

According to the joint communique issued in Warsaw, Ukraine's membership will be upgraded in the spring of 1996.

According to the prime minister, 843,000 of the people living in the CEI's full and associated states are ethnic Ukrainians.

"Ukraine," according to Marchuk, "considers the intensification of the trade relations with CEI countries of the most important factor in the stabilization of our national economy and integration of Ukraine into the European economy."

Kuchma Meets Czech Minister; Reaffirms Wish To Join EU

LD0910191495 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1602 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Oct 9 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma has reaffirmed Ukraine's determination to become a full-fledged member of the European community.

He told Czech Foreign Minister Jozef Zelenec, who chairs the Committee of the Council of Europe's Ministers, that he was grateful to him for his assistance in facilitating Ukraine's admission to the Council of Europe.

Kuchma said that "there are no contradictions in Ukrainian-Czech relations" and that both countries have the same views on different international problems.

During a two-day visit to Kiev, Zelenec is planning to meet with Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk, Parliament Chairman Oleksandr Moroz and First Deputy Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko.

The talks will deal with prospects for Ukraine's participation in the Council of Europe's work, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry told Interfax - Ukraine.

The Czech delegation is also to meet with representatives of the ministries for foreign economic contacts and trade; economics and machine-building; and the state committees for atomic energy and oil and gas.

NATO Enlargement Discussed

LD0910195795 Prague Radiozurnal Radio Network
in Czech 1700 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec has begun a visit to Ukraine. Our special correspondent David Stahlavsky reports from Kiev:

[Stahlavsky] The arrival of the Czech guest is indisputably an important event here in Kiev. One of the reasons is that Josef Zieleniec is the chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, and the Czech Republic is currently the presiding country. In this context, Minister Zieleniec emphasized after his arrival that Ukranian membership in this organization is a good thing. This is a formal confirmation of the fact that Ukraine is a state that belongs to Europe and the Prague government has always been striving for Ukraine to join this organization.

Ukraine also understands the subtle differences in the process of enlarging NATO eastwards and our interest in joining the alliance. On the other hand, for Ukraine

— since it does not intend to get involved in military blocs — it is important that it does not become a buffer zone between the integrated Western Europe and the post-Soviet East.

Josef Zieleniec denied that he and President Leonid Kuchma discussed a possibility of deploying nuclear weapons on the Czech Republic's territory in the event of our joining the North Atlantic Alliance. [passage indistinct]

According to Josef Zieleniec, there are no problems in relations between the Czech Republic and Ukraine. Kiev has been our traditional and (?obvious) partner, especially in the field of the economy. Kiev and Prague hold many concordant views on international politics. Ukrainian sovereignty and prosperity are not only in the interests of Kiev, but also in the interests of our republic.

The interest in the development of Czech-Ukrainian relations is documented also by the fact that a 50-strong delegation of businessmen is accompanying minister Zieleniec. [passage omitted]

Moroz Asks Poland To Be 'Careful' in Approach to NATO

LD0610224595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — "Ukraine's attitude to Poland's desire to become a fully-fledged member of NATO is one of respect. However, at the same time we would like it not to forget about the interests of other states, and Ukraine in particular," Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz said at a joint news conference with Polish Sejm Speaker Jozef Sych on 6 October. Moroz stressed that "Ukraine cannot object to Poland's entry to NATO", but "would ask it to be very careful in its attitude to participation in NATO's military organization", considering Ukraine's objection to playing the role of a "buffer" between NATO and other blocs. "Every problem has a temporal dimension and it is important to take such steps in a balanced manner", he said.

Jozef Sych emphasized that entry to NATO as to a "tested structure, which provides stability" was one of Poland's strategic tasks, "from which it will not retreat".

Mr. Sych also spoke in favor of deepening cooperation between Ukraine and Poland in the defense sector.

Marchuk, Polish Counterpart Discuss NATO

LD0710153395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WARSAW, Oct 7 (Interfax - Ukraine) — "There will be no quiet in Europe unless Russia and the North Atlantic Alliance launch partnership," Ukrainian Prime-Minister Yevheniy Marchuk said after a meeting with his Polish counterpart in Warsaw.

Marchuk's press secretary Larisa Ivshina told Interfax that the Polish Prime-Minister appreciated the Ukrainian position on the enlargement of the North Atlantic Alliance which, he felt, would "do good to both Poland and Ukraine."

Warsaw attaches special importance to "the joint strategy for Europe" which brings Poland "much closer to Ukraine than to Russia."

Marchuk was invited to pay an official visit to Poland, Ivshina said.

The two Prime-Ministers discussed Polish-Ukrainian relations and Ukrainian integration, as a permanent member, into the Central European Initiative [CEI] that brings together the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and several former Yugoslav republics.

According to Marchuk, Warsaw "offers the most resolute support to the Ukrainian quest for permanent membership of the Central European Initiative."

Today, Ukraine is an associated member of the Central European Initiative.

Conference Examines U.S.-Ukrainian Relations

WS0910134495 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0807 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct. 6 — Ukraine has no intention to become a parasite on the United States, Oleh Bilorus, Ukraine's first ambassador to the United States, said this week at a conference analyzing the history of U.S.-Ukrainian relations.

Ukraine should obtain necessary investments and credits on a commercial basis, Bilorus added.

The conference, U.S.-Ukrainian Relations: 1917-1995, was held Wednesday and Thursday [4-5 October] at the Kiev Institute of International Relations. Organizers included the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the U.S. Embassy to Ukraine, the Institute for Eastern European Affairs of the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of International Relations of the Taras Shevchenko National University.

The scope of relations between Ukraine and the United States has concentrated mostly on the economic sphere, the participants concluded. The U.S. government has consistently carried out a policy of support for Ukraine's economic reforms in general and the privatization process in particular.

Natalie Jaresko, a representative of the U.S.-initiated Western Newly Independent States Enterprise Fund, said that the Ukrainian reforms strategy convinces the international business community to invest money in Ukrainian economic development.

National Affairs

Kuchma Addresses Lawyers on New Constitution

LD1010101495 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Speech by President Leonid Kuchma at the Mariyinskyy Palace in Kiev on the occasion of conferring awards to a group of Ukrainian lawyers on 9 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esteemed participants and guests at today's ceremony: I sincerely welcome all those who have gathered here today on the occasion of the second celebration in Ukraine of the holiday of representatives of the legal profession — the opening of the year of law.

Ukraine is taking new steps toward confirming its statehood. Along this path we must take into account the better world experience (?gained) over time, and our national historical and legal traditions. Let us recall the ancient Rus state and why it was so strong and influential in Europe. It was probably first of all due to the strength of law that reigned there. The first collection of laws of the Rus state in the period of the princes — the Rus Truth [Ruska Pravda] written by Yaroslav the Wise — became a classic model of the understanding (?of the prince as) the head of state, and the priorities and legal principles of forming statehood. This led, via the first constitution of Pylyp Orlyk of 1710 and the statehood constitutionally established by Mykhaylo Hrushevskyy, to the declaration of state sovereignty of Ukraine and the act of Ukrainian independence.

Ukraine's centuries-old cultural and legal heritage has convinced us that our state will only take up its real deserving place in the world community when it has a fundamentally new legal system with mankind and the rights and freedoms worthy of life as its basis. The past year has been marked by a convincing contribution in the development of the legal system and the creation of a new constitutional order in Ukraine which was crowned by the constitutional treaty between the president of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Supreme Council. It is no secret that for our state, it was precisely the constitutional treaty that became the singular passage to the Council of Europe. I know that lawyers from such structures of the Council of Europe as the legal committee of the parliamentary assembly and the Venice commission gave a high professional appraisal of the unique experience of Ukraine in resolving its political and legal problems and the stand-off between the branches of state power, calling it lawful, democratic, and civilized.

The prospects that open up as a result of this set the lawyers of Ukraine are even broader tasks. We should complete the constitutional process, finally in a constitutional manner register the independent existence of the Ukrainian state, and determine the content and form of its system. We will hope that next year Ukraine will have a general national holiday — the day of the Ukrainian constitution — in time for your next professional day.

The next year for lawyers will be not easy also because the program of obligations which Ukraine took upon itself by becoming a member of the Council of Europe has to be implemented. The year 1996 should also determine the full range of activities of the Ministry of Justice. Within a short time, its role, place, and functions in the state and society should change substantially. At the same time, I want to note that the state should demonstrate changes in its attitudes to representatives of the legal profession. Without proper working conditions or radical reform in many branches of the legal sphere, above all reform of the courts and of the legal profession, we can hardly talk about a lawful state. The tradition of celebrating the year of law in Ukraine, which was initiated last autumn, is a better confirmation of the state's attempt to honor those who create a lawful vital activity.

In developing the traditions of state-creating aspirations and giving respect to the state talents of Prince Yaroslav the Wise, by decree of the president of Ukraine, an award was recently created called the Order of Yaroslav the Wise. [passage omitted]

I welcome you on the occasion of the holiday. I wish you health, creative energy, happiness, goodwill, and prosperity to your families.

Kuchma Chairs Security Council Session on CIS Cooperation

LD0610220695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Oct 6 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Priority problems of the foreign and foreign-economic policy of Ukraine were considered in Kiev on Friday at a meeting of the National Security Council under the Ukrainian president. Those present outlined additional measures to intensify cooperation between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

The presidential press service has told Interfax - Ukraine that proceeding from national interests, those present analyzed the strategic aspects of the development of cooperation between Ukraine and its partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States and European neighbors.

The Cabinet of Ministers, Ministries and Departments proposed to work out as soon as possible a program which would give a new impetus to the establishment of equal and mutually beneficial relations between Ukraine and its foreign partners.

Kuchma Takes Full Control of National Guard

LD0710182995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1704 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Oct 7 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on Saturday formally brought the National Guard, which has until now reported both to the president and parliament, under his full control.

The main purpose of the measure is "to ensure operational control of the National Guard by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief (the president) and the effective use of its units to defend the sovereignty of Ukraine and its territorial integrity," Kuchma said in a decree.

Another aim is to ensure better protection of "the life and personal dignity of citizens, their constitutional rights and freedom from criminal encroachments, to strengthen civic order in populated areas" and to put onto practice "proposals made on the matter by the National Security Council."

Kuchma said that by his decree he exercised powers given to him by the Constitutional Accord, a pact he made with parliament earlier this year.

Minister Defends National Guard Decree

LD0910153895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1330 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Ukrainian president's decree on resubordinating the National Guard of Ukraine "does not contravene current legislation or conflict with common sense," Vasyl Durdynets, deputy prime minister for security and emergency situations, said in an interview with UNIAN on 9 October. According to him, the Ukrainian president's decision is a legitimate one and "in his decree he refers to specific articles of the constitutional treaty."

Vasyl Durdynets reported that the recommendation to the Ukrainian president on resubordinating the National Guard of Ukraine was adopted unanimously at a meeting of Ukraine's National Security Council on 6 October.

"There is no similar situation in the world, where a powerful military formation is subordinated to the highest legislative body parliament. This is nonsense," he said.

In his interview with UNIAN, Durdynets said that the Ukrainian president had charged the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers with preparing amendments and additions to the law of Ukraine "On the National Guard of Ukraine." "The government is already working on the amendments and additions and will submit them to the Supreme Council parliament for examination in the near future," he said.

Durdynets expressed the hope that parliament would have an understanding attitude to this step by the Ukrainian president.

Parliament Set To Veto Presidential Decree

LD1010105095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1012 GMT 10 Oct 95

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, October 10 (Itar-Tass) — The Ukrainian parliament is going to veto the decree of President Leonid Kuchma on putting the national guard under the command of the head of state, who is the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The legislators believe that this is the prerogative of the Supreme Soviet. Corresponding commissions were assigned to study the problem and submit it for the consideration of the parliamentary session.

In the opinion of many MPs, who responded to questions of Tass, the presidential decree will be cancelled. It runs counter to the law on the national guard, which says clearly that it is subordinated to the Supreme Soviet, and to it alone, and is put under the command of the president only at war times, Chairman of the Commission for Defence and Security Vladimir Mukhin stressed.

Experts believe, at the same time, that Leonid Kuchma had the right to put the national guard under his command, because, according to the constitutional agreement between the president and the Supreme Soviet, the parliament only establishes the numerical strength and structure of the national guard, but does not control it.

Moroz Refuses To Register New Parliamentary Factions

WS0910124095 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0318 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Report by Oksana Hasiuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct. 6 — Parliament's deputies are free to unite in any associations that they desire, but they will not be officially registered as factions or groups, Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz said Friday [6 September].

The negative reply was prompted by an appeal from deputies to register the newly organized Soyuz (Union) deputy association. Before the speaker's refusal, 34 parliamentary deputies announced their creation of Soyuz [punctuation as received]

Ivan Symonenko, Interregional Deputy Group member, read a Soyuz statement at the Rada meeting.

During the four years of Ukraine's independence, Symonenko said, "a legacy of crisis" has evolved. The only way to cure the ills suffered as a result of the Soviet Union's demise is to renew the union ties, Symonenko said.

The statement declared the necessity to create a new union as the only way to preserve the unique Eastern Slavic community, the spiritual legacy of Kievan Rus.

Ukraine should lead the formation of the new union, according to the statement, because Ukraine had an integral role and leading place in "the former association of Soviet people."

A new union should be an economic and political association of people, the statement said. Furthermore, the union would be based on interstate governmental structures rather than nationalistic principles.

The statement said member countries of the proposed union would share a common budget, media and currency. In addition, the transportation network as well as the fuel and energy complex would be communal.

In a related, if not less controversial move, eight deputies announced their formation of the Working Ukraine deputy association to protect the rights of Ukrainian workers.

Deputy Hryhoriy Nedvyha, a new association member, said deputies are united in different parliamentary factions and groups that lobby for the interests of many parts of Ukraine's society.

Yet, Nedvyha said, "Nobody defends the rights of workers."

Leonid Kaminskiy, another Working Ukraine member, said the government's program is "declarative and obliges nobody to anything."

Kaminskiy said President Leonid Kuchma is not correct in stating that nobody can propose an alternative to the government's program.

Volodymyr Marchenko, a key member of the Socialist faction, said that the faction plans to announce its own economic program on the same day that the Cabinet of Ministers presents its program.

Economic Issues

Gas Debts To Be Alleviated By Ending Monopoly

WS1010105395 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0011 GMT 10 Oct 95

[By Sava Olyferchuk, "Special to IntelNews"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct. 9 — The Ukrainian government has reached an agreement with Russia's GazProm to open up the right to buy and sell Russian natural gas to all commercial contenders, both foreign and domestic.

The deal, if implemented, would allow the market to find a solution to the problem of Ukraine's burgeoning gas debt.

Alexander Pushkin, a member of Russian GazProm's board of directors, held a short closed-door meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko in Kiev Monday [9 October] at which the new arrangement was reached, according to Mykhailo Holyshov, Lazarenko's press secretary.

According to Holyshov, officials have decided to cancel the former monopoly of UkrGazProm on the gas purchases and sales, granting for the first time to both Ukrainian and foreign commercial structures will the right to purchase Russian gas for Ukrainian internal needs.

The new arrangement would also have the effect of greatly increasing the revenues earned by Ukrainian firms through the transit of Russian natural gas via Ukrainian territory.

Up until this point, Russia has transported its gas through Ukraine as per an interstate agreement in which it paid part of the transport fee in the form of remittance of part of Ukraine's gas debt.

The agreement reached on Monday would change the transit arrangement from an interstate treaty to the form of individually concluded contracts between firms.

The price for transit of 1,000 cubic meters of Russian natural gas through Ukraine is currently US$ 1.75, versus an average world price level of from US$5 to 7. Russia pays just US$ 0.51 of this sum in cash, with the remainder going to pay off the Ukrainian debt.

The total amount of gas that to be supplied to Ukraine was fixed at the talks but the precise figure was not announced.

At the same time, the state, in the person of UkrGazProm will reserve for itself the right to provide the population with gas. Enterprises will be able to purchase the fuel market prices at a soon-to-be-created commodity exchange.

Those businesses incapable of paying will not receive the fuel.

Russian GazProm representatives arrived on Monday for a two-day visit on Lazarenko's personal invitation.

President Leonid Kuchma has recently charged Lazarenko to deal with questions of supply and payment for the fuel.

According to Mykhailo Chernovetskyy, Praveks concern president, commercial structures that have money can and really have to purchase the gas for enterprises.

At the same time, Chernovetskyy doubted that there will be many foreign companies willing to risk going into the gas business in Ukraine without government guarantees and given the country's uncertain legislative environment.

"Ukraine's businessmen have already found their places at the fuel market and are self-confident," said Chernovetskyy.

Simultaneously Oleh Ishchenko, chairman of the recently created OlGaz financial-industrial conglomerate, said it was too soon to talk about the final division of the Ukrainian gas market.

Government's Economic Program Criticized

WS0910091095 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 29 Sep 95 p 7

[Article by Serhiy Sokolovskyy: "The Government's Program: To Walk on the Edge of the Abyss and Not Stumble"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After three months of deliberations about Ukraine's economic future and endless additions and revisions to the government's program, the latter has finally been put together. Next week (if no delay occurs once again), it will be submitted to the legislature.

Declaring in the program's first lines about its intention to reach macroeconomic stabilization, the government, however, emphasizes: Monetary policies were not timely supported by other components of the domestic economic policies that could boost economic activity, production, labor productivity, and real incomes of the population. The program's core is about using these missing factors. But below in the text, the government admits: Overall, the national economy is in such a bad condition because of the deficient development of market mechanisms, compared with worldwide methods of market regulations. So, the question whether the new Cabinet of Ministers fulfills the main task, to satisfy both sheep and wolves, remains open.

According to the program, the budget deficit will exceed 6 percent of the GDP next year, with 4 percent of the deficit being covered by issues of state securities and only 2 percent by the Ukrainian National Bank emissions. Inflation is expected to reach 2.4 percent monthly, down from 7.5 percent this year. These and other indicators (a 1-percent decrease of the GDP and a 0.6- and 0.2-percent increase in industrial and agricultural production, respectively) surprisingly precisely correspond with the IMF standards, which brings up sad thoughts. Ukraine has already displayed its equally ambitious intentions in front of international financial organizations. The outcome was always entirely opposite. Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk declared recently that the budget deficit may reach "only" 30 percent, instead of the "smoothly planned" 7.3 percent.

A provision pointing to the need to restore regulation of the consumption fund at enterprises of all ownership types is regarded by experts as being anti-market in nature. Entrepreneurs now openly talk about going back to the old scheme whereby book records show minimum and, therefore, tax-free wages, while various "bonus payments" (by the way, every second such payment is paid in hard currency) come from the client to the company, evading all control systems. Coupled with the price regulation, which the government is going to reinstate, this will deliver another blow to manufacturers (whom the state wants to defend), while the absence of internal investment incentives will result in the lack of funds for the development of enterprises.

Taxes remain the basis of financial and budgetary policies. The government intends to resolve the issue of state budget replenishment by imposing new taxes, including on enterprise property and real estate owned by the people. The first tax has been debated for long months now. Seen in the international context, this idea seems to be correct in principle. But the tax on property will be a lethal blow for investment-intensive industries, including coal, petrochemical, and metallurgical industries, as well as for many other high technology branches that have advanced testing equipment. As these industries constitute the core of Ukrainian exports, it is easy to guess that the planned negative foreign trade balance of $1.7 billion is exactly the same myth as the industrial production growth.

As for the citizens, they will have to pay for their own gullibility: With utility payments going up 80 percent, it will be old people, classified as well-off social groups, that will pay dearly for privatized apartments, because it is planned that the tax will be set as a percentage of the apartments' market value. Given the fact that a one-room apartment costs $8,000 to $12,000 on the average, a 1-percent tax will make our "rich" pensioners pay the state $100 yearly. This money will most probably go to finance the swollen army of tax inspectors.

Proclaiming its social policy a priority in its activities, the government is at the same time expanding a list of excisable commodities, which will inevitably make production more expensive. In addition, it is planned to introduce commercial licenses allowing the production and marketing of liquor, wines, and tobacco, as well as to adjust payments for land and cancel some tax breaks. Indeed, there are too many of those who are entitled to tax breaks in our country, including 63 percent of electricity users and 14 percent of public transportation customers. The above benefits will be replaced by a system of targeted subsidies, "which was announced in the past by practically all governments, but which none of them could implement due to the strong resistance in the hinterland." Will it work now? Removing one type of benefits, the government is trying to replace them with new ones.

Leaving tax brackets and tax types unchanged and saying no to tax benefits, the government reserved the right to enforce repayment of bad debts of individual taxpayers. According to the Civil Code, bad are debts that are more than one year overdue. You can only envy such consistency!

Now about the price making mechanism. This sphere, too, will undergo changes. Beginning the fourth quarter of 1995, the Cabinet of Ministers will send enterprises "price guidelines" based on the projected growth of prices and inflation. The question whether or not these guidelines are mandatory remains open. At the same time, the state regulation of prices for the production made by basic industries, as well as domestically made products for agriculture have been preserved.

In the sphere of financial and price policies, admitting that most enterprises are "accustomed to cheap credits that are equal to subsidies," the government is trying to walk a very thin line, too. The prospective National Council for Financial and Credit issues, which will comprise representatives of the president, the parliament, the government, the National Bank, and commercial banks, is supposed to help the Cabinet from falling off the line.

A question arises here: What powers will the Supreme Council have? If the Council has a certain amount of power, it should also have as much responsibility. If the parliament handles such issues as the financial and credit policy, reform of the banking system, relations of banks with financial brokerage companies, and so on, this will raise no protests (that is, a concept is discussed, debated, approved, and then left to be implemented by the National Bank). But if the Council starts to give orders as to how inflation should be curbed or how large a [money] issue should be, we will get the case of a "kitchen in the communal apartment" [usually plagued by quarrels and arguments]. Recurring economic emergency situations sometimes call for immediate decisions, made in one or two hours, to resolve the crisis; otherwise, you can incur heavy material and financial losses. But from the perspective of the current situation, which the whole country is bound to experience for a couple of more years, society should have a controlling tool to be sure that the National Bank makes the right decisions.

Along with the macroeconomic stabilization, the government is going to ensure manageability of the reconstruction process. Long-term tasks should be resolved based on the program approved by the government. It provides for three implementation stages: Stabilization of the economy (two to three years), activation of economic development (eight to 10 years), and establishment of the rational structure of the economy (10-12 years). Put together, it makes a quarter of a century! Sad but honest.

How is the government going to start the reconstruction? By developing those industries that can ensure a quick capital turnover, primarily light and food industries. To make the life of the light industry easier, they are planning to provide it with cotton from Ukraine's southern parts. Research efforts to restore cultivation of cotton are already under way. The program remains humbly silent about growing rice to support the food industry.

The document is abundant in such "ifs." It is partly because it was written by different people who sometimes have utterly opposite views on the present and future of our economy. In general, we have received something utopian. This, however, may impress foreign experts. By the way, the IMF and the World Bank received much attention in the program (never mind that it was in the part describing their commitments). The both organizations are to give a total of $490 million this year and an additional $2 billion next year. Anyway, the credits will be used to repay debts of the state, which will inevitably swell the domestic and foreign debt. Besides, how will international organizations react to Ukraine's intention of aggressively moving in on the military weapons and equipment market in one of the world's most conflict-ridden regions? So, life's realities provide much doubt about the possibility of implementing the program.

Some economists and politicians have rushed to declare the government's program anti-market. Others contend that it is just structured in a more balanced way than the other six programs that have been devised since Ukraine proclaimed its independence. Even if the program needs some additional work, it should be adopted. Otherwise, the government will be forced to resign, leaving the country plunged in another political crisis.

Belarus

Lukashenka on Union With Russia; Disarmament

LD0910215695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1558 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By BELINFORM correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy for TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 9 Oct — "I remain wholly in favor of a union with Russia," Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said during a visit to the tank repair works in the town of Borisov, Minsk Region. He said that it just remains to legalize relations between the two countries. There is talk about the economic and political unity.

Lukashenka emphasised that, contrary to what his opponents are saying, there is no question of any "hand over" of the republic to Russia, which in fact has never infringed and has no plans to infringe on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of independent Belarus. The president also said that the republic's further rapprochement with Russia, Ukraine, and other CIS countries may develop the same way as the European Union.

The works, which used to cut armored equipment into scrap metal, has suspended the process owing to financial problems. Lukashenka instructed the management to resume the work on 15 October. Talks with Western countries on helping Belarus to carry it out in line with the CFE [Conventional Forces Europe] Treaty are continuing at present. The president believes that as little as $100 billion will allow the republic to speed up the disarmament process.

Lukashenka said that Belarus can reduce the amount of combat equipment that it inherited from the former USSR only if Western countries help it. "If they pay, we will dismantle, and if they do not pay — we will look for other options," the president said.

Lukashenka on Resumption of Weapons Destruction

LD0910192895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 9 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belarus will resume the destruction of tanks and other armor under the Conventional Arms in Europe Treaty, President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said as he visited military repair factory 140 in Borisov, 70 kilometers north of Minsk.

IF Note: Last February Belarus suspended the elimination of weaponry under the treaty because of a "tense economic situation." Lukashenka who announced this said then that this was a temporary step which does not signify the country's withdrawal from the treaty.

Belarus has nearly 2,500 tanks, nearly 340 combat planes, over 1,000 armored personnel carriers and nearly 2,000 infantry's combat vehicles. Nearly 90,000 officers and men serve in the regular army.

Lukashenka said that, following his order to suspend the destruction of armor, Germany and the U.S. pledged $230 million to the program. He explained that he does not expect to have the entire amount in a lump but hopes that the first $100 million "pledged by the West to the former Belarussian government" will arrive soon. Until that time the factory will destroy armor at its expense.

Commenting on Russia's upper house intention to hold a referendum on economic and political integration with Belarus, Lukashenka said that he welcomes every step taken by the Russian statesmen and leaders aimed at establishing closer ties between the two fraternal peoples.

Lukashenka said that numerous mass media placed too much emphasis on the form of a union such as federation or confederation between the two countries. He is convinced that the Belaya Vezha agreement signed in 1991 on the setting up of a CIS presumed a kind of confederation. "A confederation needs only a legal framework," Lukashenka emphasized. He said that CIS member nations might form something like the European Union "as a first or, possibly, last step."

Lukashenka made it clear that economic issues have to be tackled to solve any political matters. "If Belarus and Russia implement the agreement that was signed during President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Minsk last January, the political dialog on a union could be continued because otherwise this dialog can become just a talking point and discredit the very idea of a union."

According to Lukashenka, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets, the chief negotiator in talks with Belarus is now analyzing the bilateral relations and will arrive in Minsk very shortly.

The Belarussian negotiating team will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich who will also head the presidential headquarters and carry out talks with the International Monetary Fund.

Hryb Criticizes Possible Russian Referendum on Merging

WS0910113695 Minsk MMC in English 0905 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commenting on a decision of the Federation Council of Russia about holding a referendum for political and economical converging of Russia and Belarus, made on 3 October, Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb stated: "If the Russians mean uniting in a wider sense, then, it seems to me, to put it mildly, they act incorrect, discussing a question that contradicts our constitution." In reply to a question as to whether he excludes the possibility that the Russian initiative is just playing the Belarusian card on the eve of the elections, Mr. Hryb said: "I do not exclude it at all. Due attention of Russian public is being drawn to this fact. Apart from it, the fact that the Russian referendum is planned to be combined with the elections also speaks for the benefit of this hypothesis." Mr. Hryb stated that combining the referendum with the elections is a mistake: "We combined the referendum with the election day, and today I come to a conclusion, that we made a mistake. The elections suffered from it, as all the attention was paid to the questions of the referendum."

Syanko: Belarus Must Remain Sovereign State

LD0610223495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1754 GMT 6 Oct 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Oct 6 (Interfax-West) - Belarusian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko believes that Belarus must remain a sovereign country.

"Our sovereignty gained several years ago is a historical chance we cannot miss," he said at a briefing in Minsk on Thursday [5 October].

About the idea voiced by Russia's Federation Council about a referendum on political and economic integration of Russia and Belarus Syanko said it remained unclear how realistic the proposal was.

At the same time he said he understood the feelings of millions of people deeply nostalgic about the former USSR.

Syanko said he would like borders between CIS member-states to be properly marked and backed up by appropriate treaties.

He dismissed the claim that Belarus was going to keep part of nuclear warheads in its territory.

"The withdrawal of Russian strategic troops is going on in keeping with schedule and the 'temporary lagging behind' of one month ago was caused exclusively by economic reasons and no political background should be looked for," Syanko said.

He explained that the delay in the withdrawal of Russian strategic forces occurred because Minsk found unacceptable the idea of destroying mobile missile launch pads in controlled explosions.

"This method causes considerable damage to the environment," Syanko said.

Unification Plan Seen Eliciting Opposition

MK0710122095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Yuras Karmanov under the "Belarus" rubric: "A Confederation Is Not a Collective Farm. The Idea of Unifying Russia and Belarus Cannot Be That Easily Realized"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Judging from his latest statements, the Belarusian president is not going to deviate a single step from his stated policy toward bringing Russia and Belarus closer together. This consistency of President Lukashenka is attributable not only to his commitment to the idea of Slavic brotherhood, but to the fully pragmatic desire to infuse cheap energy resources into the unreformed Belarusian economy. Over the past several years the Belarusian leadership has been preoccupied exclusively with how to extract yet another injection from the Kremlin. As a rule, this process tends to be stepped up on the eve of winter. This was the case with the infamous unification of the Belarusian and Russian monetary systems, which was initiated by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich. Under Lukashenka, this model was improved and was initially called a customs union, whose logical follow-up was the referendum on bringing the economies of Russia and Belarus closer together.

Never receiving any tangible sign of gratitude from Russia (there is still no manna from Russia, as there was none before), Lukashenka has to generate yet more new ideas, the latest of which was the idea of a confederative arrangement of Russia and Belarus. Minsk observers think that its fate will be closely reminiscent of all the previous initiatives aimed at integrating the country with Russia, because it is a matter of Russia being unable, not unwilling (the Russian Federation Council's decision proves that it is willing), to support a Belarus that puts forward excessive requirements. Yet more proof of that is Lukashenka's ineffectual trip to Moscow and Sochi. After his talks there Lukashenka said that the integration of Russia and Belarus should proceed from the bottom up, which means that it is beginning to become stalled at the level of the Russian prime minister and president. A source from the Belarusian president's staff, who asked not to be identified, told your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent some details about Lukashenka's talks with Chernomyrdin and Yeltsin. Upon his arrival in the Russian capital, Alyaksandr Lukashenka was told by the Russian prime minister that Moscow will attach a number of conditions, one of which is that the idea of confederation should be made public exclusively as the Kremlin's initiative. Lukashenka categorically disagreed with the proposition, saying that the people voted for him as "the gatherer of the Slavic lands." According to the source, Chernomyrdin was perplexed by Lukashenka's proposal that the post of leader of the unified state be "shared" — with his characteristic straightforwardness, the Belarusian president proposed an option under which he would take turns with a Russian ruler once a year — and so on and so forth. The Russian premier's reaction was unequivocal: "This is not a collective farm, after all," Viktor Stepanovich said.

Plans for the further organization of the joint state's army appear fairly interesting. It is proposed that the Belarusian army be renamed "the Western District." This has so far thrown no light on the insistent proposals by Vladimir Zametalin, chief of the presidential staff's public-political information administration, who attended the talks in Moscow and Sochi, that retired general Aleksandr Lebed, a leader of the Congress of Russian Communities, be appointed chief of the newly-created district. Moreover, talks with Viktor Gerashchenko, former chairman of the Russian Central Bank, on his possible appointment to the vacant post of Belarusian National Bank chairman, have not been unsuccessful. The source asserts that Mr. Gerashchenko has already given his consent.

When considering the fate of parliamentary elections in Belarus, which are scheduled for 29 November, the following option was suggested: that the parliamentary elections in Belarus be delayed until December. This would make it possible to carry out parliamentary elections in both states almost concurrently. Moreover, it is planned that the Belarusians will elect deputies not only to the Belarusian legislature, but also to the joint state's parliament, which would deal, among other things, with harmonizing Belarusian and Russian legislation.

The Russian premier was distressed by economic demands voiced by the Belarusian side. They boiled down to the automatic cancellation of Belarusian debts for Russian energy resources in the event of unification, while keeping up oil and gas deliveries to Belarus at reduced prices.

Given that Chernomyrdin's eyes visibly popped out after the talks with Lukashenka and that he was hearing about the Belarusian president's specific initiatives for the first time, directing President Lukashenka to Sochi to meet with President Yeltsin seemed a fully logical step. According to the source, Yeltsin long doubted whether Lukashenka should be received at all. Only after he found a pretext to cool down the "Slavic gatherer's" zeal did Yeltsin agree to hold a meeting. The pretext was the carte blanche given to Lukashenka to try "to draw" Ukraine into the confederation. This was seen from the outset as an inherently hopeless idea. Imagine Boris Nikolayevich's surprise, however, when Lukashenka, taking it seriously, headed for Kiev. In the Ukrainian capital, the Belarusian president was shown approximately the same direction he had been told to go to in Moscow and Sochi, the only difference being that Moscow, unlike Kiev, is not rushing to say the final "No." A referendum on unifying Russia and Belarus may become almost a trump card in the parliamentary and presidential elections in Russia. The Russian Federation Council's decision is yet more proof of that.

In Belarusian political circles, however, both the referendum and the confederation idea have elicited visible irritation. Myecheslaw Hryb, speaker of the Belarusian parliament, is categorically opposed to dragging Belarus into any alliances whatsoever. Commenting on moves being taken in that direction at the latest parliamentary session, he called them not only mistaken, but also false. At his latest news conference, the speaker said that all Lukashenka's attempts to unify Belarus and Russia are nothing but publicity gestures. Virtually all democratically-minded political parties and also some pro-communist organizations share the speaker's views. Commenting on the Federation Council's decision on holding a referendum, Stanislav Shushkevich, former speaker of the Belarusian parliament, called this idea completely "insane." Stanislav Bogdankevich, who has recently become the head of the center-right United Civil Party, one of Belarus's largest, thinks that now is the time to form a wide coalition ranging from the ultra-right to the ultra-left on the basis of upholding sovereignty and the rule of law in Belarus. This indicates that the unification process is bound to be perceptibly slowed within Belarus itself.

Syanko on UN, CIS Meeting, Reunification With Russia

WS0610154395 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0801 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On October 5 the head of the Belarusian Foreign Office, Mr. Uladzimir Syanko, held a press conference to deliver details concerning the 50th session of the UN General Assembly and a Belarusian delegation's participation in the session of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers which took place in Moscow on October 3.

According to Mr. Syanko, the United Nations is experiencing hard times. Annual debts of the Member States to the UN budget total around $3.7 billion. Only 60 percent of the member countries pay contributions, 71 countries do not pay at all, and over 100 countries are debtors. Belarus' debts in its contribution to UN peacekeeping operations total around $53 million. As is generally known, Belarus has taken a number of measures to have its rate of assessment as regards its contribution reduced. In Mr. Syanko's opinion, the financial problem may lead to a serious crisis in the UN. However the problem of reforming the Organisation, especially the UN Security Council, is also an acute one. In particular, some Member States' discontent was provoked by the fact that the UN and NATO acted as regards the former Yugoslavia without taking into consideration the opinion of Security Council members, thus confirming again the poor efficiency of the Organisation. In spite of the great number of Member States discontent with the activities of the UN and its subdivisions, none of the participants of the session spoke in favour of the dissolution of the UN or their secession from it. Today there is no alternative organisation which could unite so many countries and be capable of solving common problems.

Speaking about the results of the Moscow session of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers Mr. Syanko pointed out that none of its participants could be satisfied with its results and the Council's activity on the whole. Participants at the session could not discuss a problem in full measure. Many foreign ministers spoke in favour of more frequent consultations.

Answering the question on the likely reunification of Belarus and Russia, which was asked in connection with the initiative of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, the foreign minister said: "Sovereignty is an epoch-making chance and I am convinced that we must not miss it."

Official Warns Europe Against Another Cold War

*LD0610220095 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1711 GMT 6 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, October 6 (Interfax-West) - Belarusian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Sannikaw has warned against another "cold war" in Europe. He was speaking in the wake of statements by some East European countries that they were prepared to agree to the deployment of NATO nuclear weapons on their territory if they are accepted into the alliance.

Sannikaw said in an interview that such statements called into question the results of last April's New York conference of signatories to the nuclear arms non-proliferation treaty, where a majority of the 175 participants voted for prolonging it indefinitely.

Sannikaw recalled that "Belarus was the first to reject the nuclear option, and it could regard such intentions in no way other than attempts to repeat the 'cold war.'"

Constitution Court Rules Presidential Decree Invalid

*LD0610181595 Minsk Radio Minsk Network
in Belarusian 1700 GMT 6 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A special provision in the decree of the president of Belarus of 12 July 1995 on amending the budget of the Republic of Belarus for 1995 and on provisional measures for reducing budget spending does not comply with the Constitution of the state and the laws of the Republic of Belarus. Such was the verdict made late on 5 October by the Constitutional Court after a 5-hour meeting behind closed doors.

Judging by everything, this meeting was the most difficult yet for the Constitutional Court. Having listened to representatives of the sides of the case, specialists and experts, the judges carefully analyzed the provisions of the Constitution and the laws on the budget system of the Republic of Belarus, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, the president of the Republic of Belarus and other laws. In compliance with the decision of the Constitutional Court, a number of the clauses of the decree have been deemed as lacking (?legal) force. The Constitutional Court has proposed the president and the Cabinet of Ministers should bring the normative acts, issued for implementation of the decree, in compliance with the legislation. The decision comes into force on the day of its adoption and is not subject to claims and appeals.

Moldova

Sangheli-Led Delegation Leaves for IMF Talks

*AU0710172895 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
1930 GMT 6 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, October 6 (INFOTAG) — A Moldovan Governmental delegation headed by Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli left for Washington today to take part in the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

In the framework of the annual meeting, Moldova, together with five other countries, will take part in a seminar on reform stability and possibility and necessity of investment, where Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli, Minister of Economy Valerie Bobutac, Minister of Privatization Ceslav Ciobanu, and Minister of Finance

Valeriu Chitan will present their reports on reform implementation in the republic. The prime minister will also speak at the sitting of the World Bank. The delegation will meet with the leaders of the two world's biggest financial establishments, and will be received in the U.S. State Department.

The programme of the trip includes a presentation of Moldovan wines and brandies, and meetings with U.S. business leaders.

Deputy Speaker Calls Snegur Speech 'Propaganda'

AU0710165995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, October 5 (INFOTAG) — "I was wrong in only one thing — when I said that the president will be nominating senators to one of the chambers in the Parliament his party is standing up for" — that's how Deputy Speaker Dumitru Diacov has commented on the recent statement made by Snegur's Party of Revival and Accord (PRCM).

In this statement, the PRCM demanded that Diacov brings apologies for having distorted the Party Programme in his last week's TV appearance. The party believes, Mr. Diacov has thus damaged their image and insulted the PRCM chairman, Mr. Mircea Snegur.

"According to the party, the anticipated Chamber of Representatives in the would-be bicameral Parliament will consist of the heads of local executive bodies. But they will be elected only in their localities, and will get into the Parliament as the heads of local power bodies, and not through all-nation parliamentary elections. That is why I consider myself wrong only from the formal point of view, but in fact I am right," Diacov told INFOTAG. He does not believe that the speaker's message to the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was something that could discredit Snegur's initiatives. He said, the hullabaloo about Snegur's speech in the Assembly was nothing but "a propaganda campaign."

Daily Accuses PDAM of 'Sharp Tilt to the Left'

AU0710172795 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, October 6 (INFOTAG) — Any political defeat of the Agrarian Democratic Party [PDAM] triggers a sharp tilt to the left, and causes a fervent desire of revenge at any price — that's how TARA, Popular Front's paper, views the current situation in the governing party. The newspaper informs that the PDAM Board held its sitting this week, and appointed Anatol Popusoi, leader of the PDAM faction in parliament, deputy chairman of the party instead of member of Parliament Tudor Olaru.

"Olaru was dismissed without any explanation. However, no explanation is needed. Olaru represents a moderate wing in the party, and his dismissal is testimony to the aggressive consolidation of communists (i.e. extreme left-wing forces — INFOTAG)," the paper wrote.

"The newly-appointed PDAM deputy chairman, who seems to be becoming the key figure in the party, has spoken for forming a united bloc of agrarian democrats and the Unity Movement," the paper stressed, and reminded that only one day before that the parliamentary Socialist Unity faction voted against the Parliament's appeal to international organizations to liberate the Ilascu group.

Kazakhstan

Electoral Commission Chairman Holds Briefing on Election

LD1010104295 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Presenter] People in Kazakhstan will have to come to the polling stations twice: on 3 December [as heard] to elect the Senate, the upper house of Kazakhstan's parliament and on 9 December to elect the Assembly [madzhlis], the lower house. Territorial, district, and constituency electoral commissions have already been formed and have started their work locally. The Central Electoral Commission of the Republic has been informed of this by the heads of regional administrations, districts, and cities.

Today the first news conference dedicated to the forthcoming elections to the republic's bicameral parliament was held. Vladimir Antonov has the details.

[Antonov] I will begin with the main facts, in my opinion, of what Yuriy Kim, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, informed journalists. First of all, the parliament will consist of 107 deputies; 40 in the upper house, the Senate, and 67 in the lower house, the Assembly. The former will be elected by special electoral colleges — citizens who are members of maslikhats [local assemblies]. Elections for deputies to the Assembly will be held in the ordinary way and 67 constituencies have already been formed for this, according to the seats. Each region has its own number of these. I can tell you that South Kazakhstan Region has the most seats - eight; Karaganda Region and Almaty city have five each.

Yuriy Kim spoke about one more interesting fact, the approximate cost of this election campaign will be 474 million tenge, out of which 10 million will go to candidates' expenditures. This means campaign work: speeches in the press, on radio and television, and the production of posters.

As for the questions, they concerned mainly the same issues as at past referenda: the level of democracy in the way the elections are conducted. Yuriy Kim answered as follows: We are only learning democracy, that is why there may be hitches. Only we must not be reproached in [word indistinct]. This would be incorrect. The same may be said about the present law on elections; this is still only approaching perfection, but it meets the requirements of the new constitution fully and will help in the holding of democratic and fair elections for the new bicameral parliament.

I will quote the words with which Yuriy Kim ended the news conference: I believe in the success of this election campaign.

People's Unity Party Prepares for Elections

LD0810082095 Almaty VESTI KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 5 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The People's Unity Party of Kazakhstan is among the first to realize the importance of elections to the new parliament. It held a plenary meeting at the end of last week in Almaty, at which the party's strategy and tactics in this most important political campaign were worked out.

It is not difficult to write a document...

Party candidates go to the Senate and the Majlis [lower house] to work, not just to preside. They consider parliament as the means of influencing the government in resolving important socioeconomic and humanitarian problems, and for raising production and people's standards of living. [passage omitted]

The proposal to include the concept of fast and cheap housing construction was persuasive. Today the cost of this is increasing as state programs are being acutely curtailed. According to M. Nurdanov, a member of the Central Committee, it has already surpassed world prices three-fold. For example, in Almaty it has reached $400-$450 per square meter.

A similar situation over five to 10 years could result in a housing crisis. The party proposes that parliament adopt several appropriate legislative acts and allocate funds for construction, which will be rapidly recouped.

As well as bread, people need a roof over their heads and we can provide this — this was the slogan supported by the participants of the plenum.

Who should be chosen as allies?

Really, who? There are over 10 centrist parties and movements in the republic. Practically all public organizations speak in support of strengthening the social protection of the poor and this or that section of the population. Who does not value civil peace and inter-ethnic accord? There is perhaps no association that has not declared its commitment to fighting for an ecologically pure environment, the development of culture, health care and education. [passage omitted]

So who should be chosen as allies? In the conditions of Almaty, the central bodies of the parties are more representative, they are active. In the regions the picture is different, said plenum participants L. Matsupa and T. Bosylbayev. Four or five parties have their own branches, which look more like elite clubs than a solid organization of people with identical ideas. As it was announced at the plenum, an election pact with the Democratic Party can hardly be possible. The People's Congress Party of Kazakhstan has been left without its head and is in a particular position. [passage omitted]

The party will probably fight independently for the parliamentary seats. It is strong enough for this. It is ready to propose its candidates in every territorial electoral district. Whom exactly, will be decided by the second extraordinary congress within the next few days.

At the same time far from everybody on the party list can win the contest. There are few great authoritative figures in the localities. Here compromises are possible with other parties, even with nonparty forces. [passage omitted]

Politicians, like men, promise too much

The participants of the plenum remembered this semi-ironic, semi-serious statement when the talk turned to the question of how to popularize and explain their own platform to the electorate. It is clear that the party rejects cheap populist promises on principle. [passage omitted]

The People's Unity Party of Kazakhstan is backing the reforms in the republic. So its activists will spread the propaganda of those positive changes that were achieved of late. These are the adoption of the new constitution and the social orientation of the reforms. You know, up to 46 percent of state budget funds go in support for the poor sectors of the population. [passage omitted]

Now it [the party] has the right to be engaged in economic activities and set up public youth associations. Projects to be realized in the near future have already been worked out. All this will give the party a new image and bring a great number of additional votes.

Thus the leadership of the People's Unity Party of Kazakhstan does not conceal the fact that it would like to win as many seats in parliament as possible and it will fight seriously for this.

The aim of the party is not to allow the interests of society and its citizens to be substituted in the parliament by the interests of the apparatus, red tape, and monopoly and criminal structures. Well, the main thing is speeding up the construction of a legal, democratic state, forming a social-market economy and securing political and inter-ethnic stability. [passage omitted]

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Addresses TU Congress on Tasks Facing Nation

LD0610165295 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1200 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Askar Akayev has charged all the people of Kyrgyzstan with putting an end to fruitless political debates and making 1996 a time of creative work, in his speech of welcome at the 18th congress of trade unions of Kyrgyzstan, which opened today. If we get down to the problem all together and do not digress into political quarrels and mutual reproaches, then, although only partially, the republic's main problem - people's employment - could be solved as early as next year, the president believes. Today, the first $600 million to improve the social and economic situation have already been seen. It would be advisable to create jobs at the Bishkek thermal power station, Manas airport and on the Bishkek-Osh motorway. This will enable the situation in the labor market to be improved. In total, over 300,000 people have lost their jobs.

Speaking about the next strategic task of the state - financial stabilization - the president stressed that the republic has nonetheless managed over the last two years to lower the rate of inflation by several degrees and bring it down to 23 percent, and to make price increases slower than in other CIS countries.

Kyrgyzstan is second only to the richest power, Russia, in the Commonwealth of Independent States as regards the minimum wage and social payments. This is why the republic has approached its basic task - realization of the strategic development plan - in real earnest. While this year, the president said, we are forced to assure people that we will have bread and heating this winter, in the coming years improvements in the tax, economic and legal system must provide the people of Kyrgyzstan with the life to which they are entitled.

Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov reported in his address about the economic position of the republic.

Premier Addresses Trade Unions' Congress

LD0710141295 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1700 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Abbas Dzhumagulov to the 18th Congress of the Federation of Trade Unions in Bishkek on 6 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Dzhumagulov] [passage omitted] A natural question arises: Why, being perfectly aware that large funds of enterprises have been, in fact, invested in some other enterprises in the form of interest-free credits — workers' own money circulating and working somewhere else, not bringing a single tie-in of benefit to their own republican enterprise — why, knowing this, are the trade unions keeping silent? Why are they not setting all the bells ringing and demanding that the management give explanations and that [the money] be returned immediately to the republic or the work force? Why are the trade unions not actively intervening in the production process but silently agreeing to mass job cuts with unpaid leave lasting many months and sometimes with unjustified shutdowns? This is where we have to work together.

Sometimes production falls because of the inactivity, irresponsibility, and slackness of some heads of enterprises, who, unfortunately, maybe even — I should like to speak clearly — despite having raw and other materials, deliberately do not arrange what they must. Enterprises with equipment that is not bad — I am not saying it is perfect — and with great potential and capacity are standing idle; the workers are lounging around. At the same time, the director and administration are receiving double the salary they used to. He is not worried that a number of workers are being thrown onto the streets. This is where we should intervene. [passage omitted]

As for the real results of the work being done by the government, gross domestic product was up by 23.4 percent in August 1995. Unfortunately, this indicator is fluctuating: In September it was somewhat worse. Calculations are currently being made. In the first nine months of the year production decreased, as I have already said, by 13.5 percent, but last year, I have said too....

During these last three months budget revenue has risen somewhat — you know why three months. [sentence as heard] In the first nine months of 1995 the republican budget received a total of 1.7 billion or, more precisely, 1.8 billion soms — this makes 71 percent — including 271 million in August. This has never happened before. Last year the figure was 140 million. Taking into consideration the inflation rate, this means an increase of almost 45-48 percent.

In brief, the government will take measures to ensure that everything that should be received by the state will be. It is intended to introduce from January 1995 a new system of collecting value added tax based on invoices. Also, excise stamping of tobacco products and alcoholic drinks will be introduced soon. In general, with a view to improving the taxation system, a new tax code is being worked out that includes all laws relating to taxes and ensures their uniform application. We will submit this new code to the Supreme Council this year, and it will come into effect in 1996 — its introduction will be gradual and will be completed in 1997.

Unfortunately, as a result of economic difficulties the volume of domestic investment has sharply decreased. It makes up 1.5 percent today, whereas it was 5.8 percent in 1990. This has seriously affected the state of many infrastructure facilities: roads, transport, communications, and many other things. This has led to technology and equipment in the production sector becoming obsolete.

Of course, this has had a negative impact on the development of the social sphere, especially in health care, education, and culture. Nevertheless, we should know — and this has been said today — that 56 percent of all we have is being directed to cover our social needs. In the overall volume of expenditure, the proportion of expenditure on social protection — social insurance alone has increased from 2.1 percent in 1993 to 4.2 percent in 1995. In 1996 it will be no less than six percent. Apart from this the state investment program for 1996-1998 envisages the allocation of $48 million — or 12 percent of everything that will arrive in the republic from credit lines — for the needs of various social spheres and employment agencies.

Yes, we are attaching priority to the social policy, striving to make it strong. The government's policy is a socially-oriented market economy and social protection of the population. I think we should not deviate from this policy. The government is with you on this. [passage omitted]

As of 10 September wage arrears to teachers and medical sector employees amounted to 190.9 million soms. The government is systematically and consistently carrying out work to clear the arrears: the problems are gradually being tackled. Whereas on 1 July 1995 wage arrears in educational establishments came to 106 million, by 10 [September] — I have already said. We have also reduced the debt to medical sector employees by 60 percent. Some regions — Talas and Naryn — have fully cleared their arrears.

By 1 October the Social Fund had financed payment of pensions, allocating 626 million soms, or 82.2 percent [of the required sum]. The September pensions were paid off too. By 1 October, 235 million had been allocated to settle liabilities on benefits, whereas we need 354 million. In other words, we still owe 119 million. Measures are being taken to clear arrears on pensions and social benefits, including the wages of teachers and medical workers, by the end of the year. In a few days an edict on this will be issued, under which the government will issue instructions to resolve these problems.

The key issue in social protection is still to ensure that targeted benefits are paid. They should be given to those who really need them. Under an edict issued by the president on 1 January 1995, a one-off benefit was introduced in the republic for poverty-stricken families and citizens, and its size is set according to the aggregate income of each family member. The republic's budget for this year envisages allocating 419.8 million soms for this purpose. By 1 September grants were being received by 1.3 million people, including 1.1 million children under 16.

Practice has shown that abandoning the payment of social benefits has worsened the material situation in families that have people disabled from childhood or unable to work because of general sickness and aged citizens who do not have the right to receive a pension. We have found the possibility to give social support to these citizens by granting 31.4 million soms. The government is studying the possibility of compensating partially for the rise in tariffs for communal services and bread prices by adjusting the size of the one-off benefit. In the future we will consider [compensation for] electricity. [passage omitted]

In this connection I would like to ask you, respected delegates, to take a responsible attitude toward the address made by President Akayev to the people on holding presidential elections by the end of this year and to consider it within the context of the currently arising socioeconomic situation. All of us witnessed the election marathon to the Supreme Council. You know it was not at all simple. I think that if this marathon had not taken place, a number of issues would probably have been resolved in a different way and we would have discussed some other issues. I will not go into details. Only the total understanding of the complexity of the situation and the need to preserve the positive trends in the socioeconomic sphere make it necessary for all of us to take steps in this direction and to act only in the interests of our people.

Respected congress delegates! Dear comrades! I believe profoundly in the wisdom of our people. [passage omitted]

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov, UN Official Discuss Military Observers

LD0510125595 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A few minutes ago President Emomali Rakhmanov received UN Assistant Secretary General Iqbal Riza, who has been in Tajikistan for two weeks on an official visit [word indistinct]. In the course of the conversation, held in a friendly atmosphere, they mainly focused their attention on various trends in the activities of the UN military observers in our Republic.

This afternoon Riza will meet First Deputy Prime Minister Mahmadsaid Ubaydulloyev, Defense Minister Sherali Khayrulloyev, and Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov.

Dushanbe Informs UN of Opposition Forces Massing

LD0810083495 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0300 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The authorities of the Defense Ministry of Tajikistan have just now informed the United Nations military observers that they have seen with their own eyes armed opposition forces gathering in Tovil'-dora [central Tajikistan]. The Defense Ministry of Tajikistan thinks that this act, the gathering of forces, is a violation of the cessation of hostilities and is asking the UN observers to support them in their protest. According to a statement from the international communication center of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, it has been decided that an international delegation of military observers, together with representatives of the joint commission on observance of the cessation of hostilities, is to arrive in Tovil'-dora on Monday [9 October].

More Police Assigned to Scene of Army Clashes

LD0910145095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 9 Oct — The situation in the Khatlon region which has aggravated as a result of clashes between two units of the Tajik Defense Ministry remains complex but is under control, the republican authorities claim. A statement circulated by the Tajik Interior Ministry today said an additional force of 1,200 police has been transferred to the Khatlon region from other regions to prevent further build-up of armed unrest. Eleven road blocks have been set up in the area of the clash. Mobile police units patrol Kurgan-Tyube at night. The Interior Ministry's directorate in Khatlon has tightened the control of the traffic into and out of Kurgan-Tyube.

Along with this, Tajikistan's law enforcement bodies continue investigation into the circumstances of the clash. A Foreign Ministry statement said that to date over 23 most active participants and ringleaders of the unrest have been detained. The prosecutor-general's office has instituted legal proceedings against the detained persons.

Turkmenistan

Foreign Minister Meets UNESCO Head in Paris

LD0710132195 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1530 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Boris Orazovich Shikhmyradov, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and the special envoy of President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov] of Turkmenistan, has met UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor at the international organization's headquarters in Paris. [passage omitted]

In this context the UNESCO director general noted that before his visit to Ashgabat it was necessary to draw up a long-term program for Turkmenistan for the period up to 2000, with the allocation of the necessary funds for implementing specific projects. [passage omitted]

This concerns assistance to Turkmen academics and the Turkmen Government in the restoration of monuments and developing an international tourist infrastructure. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister: Neutrality Policy Chosen

LD0610153395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1416 GMT 6 Oct 95

[By Igor Shchegolev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PARIS, October 6 (Itar-Tass) — Turkmenistan is striving to pursue the policy of neutrality and will join the Non-aligned Movement in October, said Boris Shikhmuradov, Turkmenistan's chairman of the cabinet of ministers and foreign minister visiting in Paris.

He told Itar-Tass that Ashgabat chose the policy of "perpetual constructive neutrality" and refuses to join any existing and future alliances resting on a territorial, religious or linguistic basis. This policy has already been supported by many countries, including the United states, France, India and China. Russia's support is particularly important for Turkmenistan, the minister said. He said that Russia is ready to be "full guarantor" of Turkmenian neutrality.

Uzbekistan

Findings Reported of EU Audit of Uzbek Oil, Gas

LD0710083995 Tashkent BIZNES VESTNIK VOSTOKA in Russian 6 Oct 95 p 15

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Uzbekistan has a real possibility of becoming an oil exporter by the end of the 20th century. Such is the opinion of experts of the Kantor consortium, which they expressed at the Uzneftegaz [Uzbek oil and gas] national corporation at the presentation of their concluding report, "assistance and recommendations to the Uzbek Government in elaborating a new strategy for the oil and gas sector," prepared within the framework of the [European Union's] TACIS program [of technical assistance to CIS countries].

The Kantor consortium, the members of which are three British firms, London Economics, Arthur D. Little, and the London Business School, and the leader of the group, Kantor of Greece, was the winner of a tender under the TACIS project in July 1994. The project, which costs 2 million ECU, includes a full audit of the oil and gas industry of Uzbekistan and subsequent recommendations to the government. Having started their work in October last year, the experts of the consortium produced the result of their study this September.

According to them, the further growth of oil and gas condensate extraction will continue in the republic — from 4 million tonnes in 1993 to approximately 7.5 million in 1995, and rising on average to 9 million tonnes in the period from 2000 to 2005. This will not only make it possible to achieve independence in energy but will also provide the opportunity to export oil.

According to the Kantor consortium's estimates, Uzbek oil exports could increase by 4 to 5 million tonnes by the end of this decade, which will lead to a possible improvement in the balance of payments of $500-$700 million annually. It is proposed to export the oil by rail. When the Bukhara oil refinery is put into operation, it will be economically more profitable for the republic to export finished petroleum products by rail, too.

Whereas the experts are expecting a great increase in the potential for oil exports, their estimates as regards gas exports are less optimistic. Today Uzbekistan extracts 47 billion cubic meters [cu. m.] of gas [annually]. In 1995 it is planned to extract 50 billion cu. m., and according to forecasts the volume of gas extraction will be 60 billion cu. m. by 2000. Uzbekistan exports gas to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and some to Turkmenistan. Over the 1991-1994 period, as a result of the decision to sell gas at world market prices, export volumes declined steadily. In 1994 net exports totalled 4 billion cu. m..

Uzbekistan is facing a number of problems on the way to obtaining access to gas export markets. First, there is competition from its neighbors in the region — Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan — which are the main gas producers. Apart from this, there are the problems of market competition (sales to India and Pakistan will run into competition from the Persian Gulf countries) and high transit expenditure.

According to the experts, the transportation of Uzbek gas through the existing gas pipelines — Central Asia-Center and Bukhara-Ural — is unlikely while Russia depends on Ukraine with regard to transit until the Belarus-Poland gas pipeline is built. Even if Russia would like to discuss the right to the transit of Uzbek gas to Western Europe, the transit cost could exceed the profitability of exporting it. The cost of building a new gas pipeline from Uzbekistan to Western Europe would be approximately $67 per 1,000 cu. m., leaving only $7 net profit for the Uzneftegaz national corporation. Under existing world prices for energy, sales to Japan are unlikely to cover their costs even if Japan pays $95-$115 per 1,000 cu. m..

This prompts the need for powerful financing of the development of the domestic power engineering industry, including the petrochemical sector. [passage omitted]

Navoi-Nukus Railroad Construction Started

964F0009A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Roads Bring You Closer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Uzbekistan has begun building the new Navoi-Uchkuduk-Nukus rail line, more than 700 kilometers long. By the year 2000 steel tracks will connect the republic's geographic center with the northwest and southern Aral region. After the disintegration of the USSR and the break-up of what formerly was one railroad, many of Uzbekistan's regions ended up artificially separated from each other. Large segments of the main line remained outside the new borders. Which means mutual nonpayments, customs, and so on, which considerably increases the cost of passenger and cargo transportation and lengthens delivery time.

Azerbaijan

OSCE Headquarters in Groznyy Hit by Grenade

AU0710150095 Paris AFP in English
1443 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Russia, Oct 7 (AFP) — The Groznyy headquarters of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is mediating the Chechnya conflict, was hit by a grenade Saturday [7 October], an AFP journalist observed.

No one was injured in the attack which occured at 1:50 p.m. (1050 GMT).

The explosion destroyed part of the OSCE building's roof, and shattered the windows of the negotiating room in which Russian and Chechnya representatives have held peace talks.

"We have asked that the security of our mission be guaranteed," OSCE's chief of mission Sandor Meszaros told AFP.

The attack came a day after General Anatoly Romanov, the Russian commander in the war-torn republic, was critically wounded in an unclaimed bomb attack. Three others in his entourage were killed.

Last week Groznyy mayor Beslan Gantemirov, an ally-turned-enemy of Chechen independence leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, ordered his soldiers to seal off the OSCE building for a day, accusing the international body of "being under the control of Dudayev."

Baku Denies Warplanes Attacked Chechen Village

LD0910210895 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1951 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Oct 9 (INTERFAX) — Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov told INTERFAX that two Azerbaijani planes carried out air strikes against the Chechen village of Roshniy-Chu last Sunday.

At the same time, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry issued a statement saying that its planes had not carried out any training or combat flights outside Azerbaijan.

According to the statement, the fact was confirmed by the general on duty at the Russian Central Command Air Defense Post. The general said that Azerbaijani planes had not violated Russia's air space either last week or before.

Earlier, a representative of the Russian military headquarters in Chechnya told Interfax that the planes that bombed Roshniy-Chu flew out of Azerbaijani air space, but he did not say the air strikes were carried out by the Azerbaijani Air Force.

Baku Oil Consortium Opts for Two Rival Pipeline Routes

LD0910120295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1142 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, October 9 (Itar-Tass) - An international consortium decided Monday that oil from three Azerbaijani offshore fields in the Caspian sea will flow via two rival pipelines - one going across southern Russia and the other via Georgia and Turkey.

Russia insisted that the oil be pumped from Azerbaijan through southern Russia, including Chechnya, to the Russian Black sea port of Novorossiysk from where it was to be shipped to Bulgaria and then pumped to the Mediterranean coast of Greece.

Georgia and Turkey were promoting the route to the Georgian port of Batumi on the Black sea and from there eventually to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik.

Details of Pipeline Decision

LD0910124895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1238 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, October 9 (ITAR-TASS) - A 12-member international consortium decided Monday that oil from three Azerbaijani offshore fields in the Caspian sea will flow via two rival pipelines - one going across southern Russia and the other via Georgia and Turkey.

The first oil is due to start flowing next year and the Russian route is expected to be commissioned first as it is cheaper and demands little construction.

British Petroleum and Amoco hold the largest share (17 per cent each) in the consortium which also includes, Unocal (11 per cent), Azerbaijan's SOCAR and Russia's LUKoil (10 per cent each), Pennzoil (9.8 per cent), Statoil (8.5 per cent), Exxon (5), the Turkish TPAO company (5 per cent), McDermott (2.5 per cent), Ramco (2.0 per cent), and Saudi Arabia's Delta.

Russia insisted that the oil be pumped from Azerbaijan through southern Russia, including Chechnya, to the Russian Black sea port of Novorossiysk from where it was to be shipped to Bulgaria and then pumped to the Mediterranean coast of Greece thus bypassing the Turkish straits.

Georgia and Turkey were promoting the route to the Georgian port of Batumi on the Black sea and from there eventually to the Turkish Mediterraneean port of Yumurtalik.

Both projects are estimated worth 300 million US dollars and the Russian one is five times cheaper and assessed at 55 million USD.

It goes through the already existing pipeline Baku-Groznyy and is to be further plugged into the mainline to Novorossiysk. Only 27 kilometres of pipes are to be laid, while the Georgian scenario envisages the construction of 127 kilometres.

Natik Aliyev, president of the Azerbaijani state oil company, told Tass corresponding agreements with the Russian government will be concluded already this month. At the same time the necessary agreements will be drafted for signing with Georgia.

At the moment an underwater pipeline is being built in Baku to deliver offshore oil from Chyrag field to the storage facilities with a capacity of 110,000 tonnes.

An estimated five million tonnes of oil are to be annually drilled at the field beginning from 1996.

Aliyev Authorizes Exploitation of Shahdeniz Oil Field

NC0610220095 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1740 GMT GMT 6 Oct 95

["Azerbaijani President's Decree on the Exploration and Exploitation of Shahdeniz Field Located Inside the Azerbaijani Sector in the Caspian Sea" — television headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having accepted the proposal of the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic [SOCAR] on the basic principles for the exploration and exploitation of the Shahdeniz field located inside the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea jointly with the foreign oil companies, I hereby:

1. Grant authority to SOCAR to conduct talks for the exploration and exploitation of the Shahdeniz field located in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea jointly with foreign oil companies, and to prepare and initial the relevant document.

2. Instruct that the initialed agreement between SOCAR and foreign oil companies on the exploration and exploitation of the Shahdeniz field be submitted for the consideration of the Azerbaijani president.

The Azerbaijani president signed this decree today.

Aliyev, Pakistani President Comment on Agreements

NC1010083995 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1725 GMT 9 Oct 95

[From the "Special Newscast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners, following talks with Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, a ceremony was held today to sign documents on cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. Here is a report from the signing ceremony:

[Begin recording] [unidentified off-screen correspondent] Various documents were signed today on cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. [passage indistinct detailing the documents ahead of presentation to the delegations]

Following the signing of the documents on trade, economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation; on investments; and on ties in the humanitarian sphere, Azerbaijani President Aliyev and Pakistani President Leghari made statements to the press:

[Aliyev] Today the Pakistani president is officially visiting Azerbaijan. This is the first such visit by a Pakistani president. We have completed very productive work since the arrival of the esteemed president to Azerbaijan. Following this and earlier work we signed very important documents on developing bilateral ties. Diplomatic ties were established after Azerbaijan gained its independence. Over the past three years and more there have been regular ties of friendship, which have steadily developed. Both sides have tried to develop these ties in every field. These efforts have now borne fruit. This has been achieved because the ties of friendship between Pakistan and Azerbaijan have now been placed on a solid foundation and the suitable conditions have been created to further these friendly ties. Today's talks with the esteemed president of Pakistan and between our delegations have again demonstrated the enormous opportunities to develop our relations. The main result of today's talks is that both the Pakistani president and I declared that bilateral ties are friendly and will be consolidated. There are broad opportunities to develop economic and trade ties and the necessary measures will be taken to further them. The documents signed today create the good legal foundations for such ties. Two presidents have today issued the necessary instructions to their delegations to carry out the work required based on these documents. Bilateral cooperation on the international platform and inside international organizations has always been in line with the interests of the two countries; this cooperation has been directed toward defending both countries' international positions. We declared today, and I inform the public of this, that we will continue acting on the international platform and inside international organizations on the basis of these positions and will forge close cooperation. I reiterate my satisfaction with the Pakistani president's visit to Azerbaijan. The documents we signed today are the first interstate documents between Azerbaijan and Pakistan and I hope they will be implemented and that we can sign new documents between our states and governments.

Journalists attended the talks between the esteemed president and me and between the delegations, so they know of the content of our talks. Do not think there is any need for me to provide extensive information on the talks.

Thank you for your attention. It is now the Pakistani president's turn to comment.

[Leghari in English fading into Azeri translation] This is my first visit to historic and beautiful Baku and I am happy to be among the fraternal Azerbaijani people. In the morning I will visit Ganja, which recalls the role of the great poet and thinker Nizami Gencevi in our history and spiritual life. Nizami Gencevi was born and buried there. Ganja is the most ancient Azerbaijani city; its roots go back to the fourth century. Gencevi's masterpieces are clear indications that the Azerbaijani and Pakistani peoples have common roots. These masterpieces are being read and highly assessed in Pakistan.

My visit to Azerbaijan has been fruitful, shown by many of the agreements we signed relating to mutual investments, agreement on cooperation, the formation of a joint ministerial committee, cooperation in the trade and economic sphere, and cooperation in the scientific, technical, and cultural sphere. These will form the basis for consolidating our ties, particularly in the economic sphere.

During my talks with President Aliyev we exchanged views on regional and international problems of mutual interest. I informed esteemed President Aliyev of the tragedy created by the 600,000 Indian troops being sent to Kashmir to savagely quell the glorious struggle the Kashmiris have been waging for their self-determination, which is recognized by the UN Security Council. We also exchanged views on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which displaced over 1 million people following the Armenian aggression. In the morning we will visit one of the refugee camps. We have also discussed Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Bosnia. I will address the Azerbaijani deputies in the morning. [words indistinct] We highly assess esteemed Geydar Aliyev's efforts aimed at serving Azerbaijan's independence and sovereignty and consolidating the national economy. In their talks the sides stressed that the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] is important for the economic development of some regions. The issue of implementing the resolutions of the third ECO meeting in Islamabad in March 1995 was also broached. We also discussed air communication between Pakistan and Azerbaijan and noted with satisfaction that, following the agreement on flights between the two countries in February 1993, air routes were established enabling weekly flights. The opening of a Pakistani Embassy in Baku shows the importance we give to developing ties with Azerbaijan. I am sure my visit will consolidate the fraternal ties linking Pakistan and Azerbaijan. President Aliyev accepted wholeheartedly the proposal to visit Pakistan at a mutually suitable date. His visit to Pakistan will be a pleasant one. I look forward to our sincere talks in Baku continuing in Islamabad. Thank you for your attention.

[Aliyev] Thank you. [end recording]

Sign Cooperation Treaty

LD0910225295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1655 GMT 9 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevinc Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku, 9 Oct — The signing of a treaty of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Pakistan this evening in Baku brought to an end the first official bilateral summit talks at the level of the two countries' presidents, Geydar Aliyev and Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, who arrived here today for a three-day visit. Three intergovernmental agreements on trade and economic cooperation, the encouragement and protection of mutual investment, and the creation of a joint commission in the scientific and technical fields and the humanities were signed at the same time.

The heads of the two states, who spoke at the end of the ceremony, commended the documents that had been signed, stressing that a firm basis had been created for the deepening of relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan. At the same time, as emerges from their press statements, the main result of the talks must be seen as the fact that Azerbaijan and Pakistan, which established diplomatic relations three years ago, share feelings of friendship for each other and intend to develop and deepen the cooperation that has already come into being in many directions.

The actual talks lasted for more than four consecutive hours, with three of them being taken up with the heads of state discussing vital problems, both of a bilateral nature and concerning a number of regional and international conflicts, face to face. While discussing them beforehand with the full delegations present, they declared that the positions of Azerbaijan and Pakistan on most issues were similar, and that the sides intended to adhere to them when taking part in all international forums, as well as the United Nations, the OIC, and the Economic Cooperation Organization, to which both countries belong.

The Pakistani president condemned "Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan" and declared that "his country was for the territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of that Transcaucasian state."

As for the details of the two countries' trade and economic cooperation, which, according to Azerbaijan's Prime Minister Fuat Guliyev is mutually beneficial, it provides, above all, for the creation of a favorable climate for structures and entrepreneurs. The republic is also interested in using Pakistani equipment and processes in light industry and in setting up a number of factories in the food and construction sectors. Moreover, it is not out of the question that the new partner will allocate to Azerbaijan credit, which will be used mainly for the purchase of its production. ITAR-TASS correspondents managed to find out that the sides intend to agree on the specific amount of the credit during consultations in the remaining two days of the visit.

President Aliyev Announces Joint Oil Venture With Iran

LD0610220595 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Oct 6 (IRNA) — At a meeting with the visiting Iranian Minister of Cooperatives, Gholam Reza Shafe'i, the Azeri President Geydar Aliyev announced here Friday that Azerbaijan is ready to cooperate with Iran in a joint oil venture to explore the new oil fields in that country.

Aliyev thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its stance in the Azeri-Armenian conflict in Nagorny-Karabakh and for its assistance to the Azeri refugees. He further expressed regret on the United States refusal to give shareholder partnership to Iran in the oil consortium.

Shafe'i, who is heading the Iranian side in the joint commission on bilateral cooperation presented, President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to the Azeri president, expressing Iran's readiness to promote multi-lateral relations with that country.

He emphasized the Islamic Republic of Iran's unflinching stance on Azeri's territorial integrity and its independence. He pointed out the necessity for the resumption of the construction of the 'Khoda Afarin' dam on the Aras River.

He added that the resumption of the construction of the dam would firmly enhance the Azerbaijan Republic's stand in the region.

The construction of the dam came to a standstill two years ago due to the flaring up of the internal conflict in the southwest of Azerbaijan.

Aliyev underlined the historical relations between the two countries and expressed optimism that the visit would help promote relations between Tehran and Baku.

The Azeri president confirmed his preparedness to participate in the inaugural ceremonies for breaking the ground for the construction of a railroad bridge which will link Astara of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the Astara of Azerbaijan Republic in the transportation of goods.

Aliyev, Iranian Minister Criticize Each Others' Relations

NC0610163295 Baku TURAN in English 1600 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/05.10.95/TURAN — Today President Aliyev received Iran's Minister of Cooperation, co-Chairman of Irani-Azerbaijani Economic Commission, Ghulam-Reza Shafe'i, who arrived in Baku at the head of official delegation.

Mr. Shafe'i said the economic relations between two countries always developed and Iran is working out several economic projects of cooperation with Azerbaijan. He also noted that Iran condemns Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan.

President Aliyev recalled the Azerbaijan-Irani relations faced the falls and rises. "And I want to improve these relations", President Aliyev. Azeri President said he intends to send vice- speaker, Yashar Aliyev, to Tehran with proposals on development of relations between two states.

President Aliyev expressed his negative opinion on Armenian-Irani relations.

"Our nation does not understand how can you develop broad cooperation with the country-aggressor, which annexed our lands and kills your Muslim brothers and sisters", Azeri President said.

However, Iran's Minister said he does not understand "Azerbaijan's cooperation with Iran's two basic enemies — Israel and the U.S.".

"We want you to stop all relations with Israel and to have only limited relations with the United States.

Americans with their demand not to let Iran in the consortium proved that they are basic enemies of Iran", Mr. Shafe'i said. Iran's Minister said Iran's route of the pipeline is the most advantageous and suitable from the economic view point, but it had been sacrificed to America's political ambitions.

"Neither the United States, nor Israel fight against you, occupy your territories, annihilate your population. One cannot mix one with another", President Aliyev said. Then the meeting continued behind the closed doors.

The visit is taking place at the invitation of vice-speaker of Parliament, co-Chairman of Azerbaijani-Irani Economic Commission, Yashar Aliyev. Iran's Minister brought with himself the letter of Iran's President, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to President Aliyev, the press-service of the Embassy of Iran in Azerbaijan reports.

Russian Delegation Visits, Ties Stressed

Received by Prime Minister

NC0610210095 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1300 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] While receiving the Russian delegation, Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev noted that Azerbaijan had long awaited this meeting because the grave economic situation in the Republic requires the restoration of broken ties in all fields. It is vital for us that agreements on economic, financial, transportation, and health issues be signed.

In the opinion of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov, the cooperation program envisaged for the CIS by independent Azerbaijan should be applauded, for it is impossible to disregard 70 years of economic, financial, transportation, and communications ties. However, these problems should be solved in keeping with the demands of the day.

Aleksey Bolshakov then noted the urgent need for working group on the Caspian Sea, air force, transportation, and technology to immediately start its work.

It was stressed at the meeting that the urgency of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia in all fields does not depend on anybody's desire, rather it is required 70 years of ties.

Russian Officials Hold Talks With Aliyev

LD0610164995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1224 GMT 6 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindz Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku, 6 Oct — The development of relations between Russia and Azerbaijan has great importance for the two countries and their peoples, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov and Azeri President Geydar Aliyev said today in Baku during official bilateral talks which started here. Pointing out the importance of using the potential which has been accumulated over the past seven decades in the single union, they called for the expansion of cooperation between the two states in the framework of the CIS as well as the expansion of bilateral relations.

A personal message from Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was handed over to Aliyev during the meeting. The message contains the prime minister's view on working out approaches aimed at achieving a high level of mutual relations between the countries. Bolshakov also handed over to the Azeri president a copy of Boris Yeltsin's well-known decree on the principles of Russia's mutual relations with the Commonwealth's states.

The sides considered issues of the joint border which was temporarily closed by Russia unilaterally late last year because of the events in Chechnya. Aliyev said that the closure had caused considerable social and economic difficulties in Azerbaijan. Cooperation between the two countries in settling the Armenian- Azerbaijani conflict was discussed.

The talks then continued behind closed doors. According to reports from competent sources, a package of economic and military issues, in particular the issue relating to the joint use of Gabelin [name as transliterated] radar station was discussed. The presence of Vakhid Alekperov, president of Russia's "Lukoil" company, which is taking part in developing three oil fields in the Caspian sea, and Ivan Chernov, director of a department of "Rosneft" at the talks, make it possible to claim that issues relating to the joint exploitation of oil resources and their transportation to the world markets were also discussed. As is known, there are two options for this route; through the territory of Russia or through Georgia. According to preliminary calculations by specialists the implementation of the first version would cost $50 million and the implementation of the second one would cost five times as much.

Aliyev Receives Chernomyrdin Message

NC0610182395 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1300 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The members of the delegation headed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov are among the prominent guests visiting Azerbaijan this week. Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev today received the government delegation of the neighboring country. Menzere Sadikova reports:

[Begin Sadikova recording] The development and consolidation of the all-around ties between Azerbaijan and Russia conforms with both countries' interests. Hence, we are not mistaken to say that both sides expect much from the talks to be held in our Republic by the Russian delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov. This is evinced by the fact that crucial and important problems for both Republics were touched upon during the meeting with Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev.

In conveying Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's message to Azerbaijani President Aliyev, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Bolshakov noted that the package sets out the main directions of Azerbaijani-Russian ties.

In presenting the new program [Yeltsin's 14 September edict "On Approving the Russian Federation's Strategic Course With the CIS Member States"] of Russia — which is trying to establish productive relations with the CIS countries — to Geydar Aliyev, Bolshakov pointed out that this document guides Russia's strategic course and the Russian leadership also trusts Geydar Aliyev in finding the optimal path for program implementation.

In referring to Russia's problems, Bolshakov said that these difficulties will be eliminated more easily with joint effort, and then expressed Russia's uneasiness over the water level rise of the Caspian Sea.

President Aliyev indicated that the Azerbaijani leadership is interested in establishing good relations with Russia and will make relevant decisions after carefully studying the documents submitted to him at today's meeting. He specifically noted that Azerbaijan is also being affected by problems in Russia and the closure of the northern railway due to the events in Chechnya which has dealt heavy blows to Azerbaijan's economy. He reiterated that continued stoppage of passenger train traffic in the north is causing major problems for commuters.

He drew the high-ranking Russian delegation's attention to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which is the greatest problem in the Caucasus. He noted diplomatically that Russia, which is among the countries experiencing grave consequences of separatism and extremism, too, should exert serious efforts to prevent such conflicts. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Transport Links With Russia Discussed

LD0910192295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1630 GMT 9 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku is dissatisfied with limited transport communication between Azerbaijan and Russia, because it inflicts a huge damage on the republic and gives rise to serious economic and social problems of the population, President Geydar Aliyev told Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov in Baku.

(The limits were introduced by Russia in order to prevent smuggling of arms from regions neighboring combat operations zone in Chechnya - IF).

In the words of the President, the social-economic damage is done by the inability of Russian and Azeri citizens to use passenger railroad transport.

Commenting on separatism and settlement of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, Aliyev said he pins great hopes on Russian peace-making and expects feasible results. In his opinion, complete peace is possible on provision of territorial integrity and inviolability of Azeri borders.

In his turn, the Russian Vice-Premier said the world has not made a medicine against separatism, but such problems must be tackled in set with others.

He suggested to discuss joint measures in connection with the increased level of the Caspian sea.

Then, the sides continued the meeting behind closed doors.

Azeri Prime Minister Fuat Kuliyev and Russian Vice-Premier Aleksey Bolshakov signed a package of intergovernmental documents on development of bilateral economic, scientific and technical relations on results of their talks in Baku Saturday.

They signed agreements on cooperation in medicine and health care, principles of cooperation in power engineering, scientific-technical cooperation and checkpoints on the customs border.

Azeri Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov and Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev signed another four intergovernmental agreements: on cooperation in geodesy, cartography and distant probing, conditions for Russian TV and radio broadcast on Azeri territory, standardization of meteorology and certification and a joint statement on the Caspian sea.

Upon the document signing ceremony, President Geydar Aliyev expressed satisfaction with the great work done by the sides and results of the intergovernmental negotiations. He described the signed agreements as a good step forward in development of bilateral relations and said they will be working on other bilateral documents.

In his turn, the Russian official noted that negotiations with the Azeri President and Speaker Rasul Guliyev inspire hope a legal basis will be created to upgrade the economies of Russia and Azerbaijan. There is a potential to achieve this goal, said Bolshakov.

He estimated as an important achievement the agreement on a permanent intergovernmental commission for bilateral economic cooperation.

In response to an Interfax question on the content of the joint statement on the Caspian sea, the Azeri Foreign Minister said the principles of this document are based on respect to norms of the international law, including sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs of each other and solution of disputes by peaceful means.

When working on the joint statement, the sides exchanged drafts of the convention of the Caspian sea, and reached an agreement to continue bilateral and multilateral consultations to elaborate a legal status of the Caspian sea. Azerbaijan and Russia called for turning the Caspian sea into a zone of peace, goodneighbourliness and cooperation, and its use exclusively in peaceful purposes, said the Minister.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Hails Azeri Oil Route; Thanks World Leaders

LD0910211995 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We present to you an interview with Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze devoted to issues concerning the transit of Azeri oil.

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] Without making too much noise we have been working with all the countries whose companies are represented in the consortium. This work with the consortium has been going on for almost a year and a half at every level — from the level of heads of state down to the level of ordinary experts. It has been especially active in the past four or five months.

The opinion that the Georgian leadership is losing this opportunity, that someone has visited Washington and worked miracles there is wrong. [sentence as heard] This work has been going on continually. It included my meetings with the U.S. President, the Russian president and prime minister, the Turkish president and prime minister, and, of course, with the leadership of Azerbaijan. My colleagues and I have had several meetings with consortium leaders, the British prime minister, and many other officials.

Yesterday, everything was prepared for today's decisive meeting. Before that, a meeting was held in London, which took a political decision. This decision was finally confirmed today.

The consortium decided that both the Georgian and Russian routes are acceptable and economically, financially, and technically feasible. The technical aspect of it is very important. Now the question is which oil pipeline will be ready first? In this respect, Russia has a certain advantage because it will be able to receive the first oil in five or six months. According to specialists' estimates, putting in working order the pipeline from Baku via Georgia will probably take 18 months. A large sum — about 400-450 million, or even 500 million [dollars] — will have to be spent on each pipeline — the northern one and the Georgian one.

According to the decision, a contract with Russia should be finalized and signed by 1 November. Meanwhile, work on a contract with Georgia will be going on, and it may even be concluded by 1 November or a little later. This contract will determine the amount of money needed to restore the pipeline, to lay new pipes and so on. Building a terminal is an especially difficult problem for us. The funds that are required to build such a terminal will be allocated.

We should now start practical work and build the necessary infrastructure. We already have certain plans as to how to continue with this work. The main thing is that the Georgian route remains valid and has been recognized as one of the two routes.

By which route the 5 million [?tonnes of early oil] will go or when that will start is not so important: Revenues from this are negligible. What is important is longer-term prospects. The wells from where this oil will be extracted are enormous. We may be talking here about the transit of a total of 40-50 million or even 60 million tonnes of oil. That is why both routes will be used. The future of a historic project is being decided. This is really very important for the country and our future.

I would like to stress the special role of the leadership of Azerbaijan — in particular [Geydar] Aliyev, who in the past few days has spoken to me about these problems several times — as well as the role of other states whose companies are represented in the consortium. The Turkish leadership, including the president, [Suleyman] Demirel, and [Acting Prime Minister] Tansu Ciller, have given us great support and assistance and have shown special commitment. We discussed these issues in detail when they visited Georgia. There has been a lot of special effort from the U.S. Government and President Clinton personally. I know that he had a special telephone conversation [with Geydar Aliyev] and supported using both routes.

The objective and fair position of the Russian leadership should also be noted. Of course, it is understandable that Russia was in favor of the northern route. Had we been in its place, we would have done the same and would have fought for it. Nevertheless, Russia has supported the decision to use both routes in the future. I would also like to note the assistance and support of the British Prime Minister John Major, and many others.

A crucial decision has been made. Now a lot will depend on technology. We will have to speed up the signing of contracts in order to attract investment from the consortium. After that tenders will be held. Our organizations will probably also be involved in building and restoration work and so will Russian and other large foreign construction companies. I would like to repeat that building a terminal whose location is yet to be decided will be the main problem.

I think that the extensive work that has been going on over the past one-and-a-half years has borne fruit, and this great prospect is now becoming a reality. However, there is still a lot of time before the transit of oil actually starts. As I said, this line needs a minimum of 18 months before it starts operation, but after all 18 months is not an eternity.

Today we have every reason to be satisfied and to thank our partners for their assistance and support. [end recording]

Shevardnadze Receives European Union Commissioner

LD0710221495 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Exerpt] On 6 October Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze met with Hans van den Broek, European Union commissioner for foreign policy, who is in Tbilisi on an official visit. Mr. van den Broek said that he is pleased with the development and strengthening of relations between the EU and Georgia. He said that in the near future the EU would implement a new food aid program for the republic. Mr. Van den Broek stressed the need for talks on partnership and cooperation. A partnership and cooperation agreement would be signed by the end of the year. This agreement would cover many spheres, laying the foundation for permanent political cooperation between Georgia and the EU.

The head of state spoke in detail about the political and economic situation in Georgia. He said that the EU aid has been of great importance for Georgia. In the past two years the situation in the country has improved, and the people have shown exceptional tolerance and endurance. Mr. Shevardnadze said that inflation has been curbed and that preparations for the elections are under way. The head of state discussed the most painful issue of the present time - the Abkhaz problem. Unless justice prevailes, all talk about stabilization and democratization is pointless. The Abkhaz problem should be solved with Russia's help, and it should be solved not only in Georgia but throughout the Caucasus region, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze said. [passage omitted]

Today the eminent guest left for Istanbul.

Joint Russian-Georgian Battalion Protecting Chechen Border

LD0910214195 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1000 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tbilisi, 9 Oct — An IPRINDA correspondent has learned from well-informed sources that a joint battalion made up of Georgian and Russian servicemen is now protecting the Georgian-Chechen border. Helicopters belonging to the Group of Russian Troops in the Transcaucasus are making regular flights from Tbilisi to the border area and supplying the servicemen with the necessary equipment. The Georgian and Russian border guards are deployed in the Akhmeta District villages of Girevi, Chreshi, and Diklo near the border with Dagestan. They are watching footpaths from Chechnya. Their headquarters is in the village of Omalo. [passage omitted]

Chechen Fighter Unit Reportedly Set Up in Abkhazia

LD0710145695 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1305 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] — Referring to reliable sources, CONTACT news agency reports that Abkhaz separatist authorities have set up a battalion of Chechen fighters in the Ochamchirye District village of Aradu. The battalion is similar to the one led by a notorious terrorist Shamil Basayev, which left a bloody track in Abkhazia in 1992-1993. The new bandit unit enrolls fighters wounded during the war against Russian federal forces in Chechnya, who later received medical treatment at hospitals in Gudauta and Sukhumi. There are 140 of them at the moment. They are armed with automatic and other types of firearms. They have two tanks and one armored vehicle in their possession.

It has also become known that the uninvited guests will be redeployed to Gali district in the next few days.

UN Official Praises Russia's Peacekeeping Role in Abkhazia

LD1010144595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUKHUMI, Oct 10 (Interfax) — The main task facing the United Nations in Abkhazia is to help get the negotiating process between Georgia and Abkhazia back on track and seek ways out of the deadlock, head of the UN civilian and military mission in Abkhazia Liviu Botha told Interfax on Tuesday.

However, he said any peace settlement could not be achieved within a day. Botha said that the repatriation of refugees, keeping Georgia in one piece and providing Abkhazia with a special status were among UN main priorities.

The UN official praised Russia's role in settling the conflict and called it a helping side. But he declined to comment on a possible withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers from Abkhazia though stressing that the UN mission would stay on as long as it was needed to bring a comprehensive settlement in the region.

Abkhazia Foreign Minister Leonid Lakerbaya in an interview with Interfax said Sukhumi welcomed the substantial role the United Nations was playing in the cause of settling the conflict. He also called for extending the mandate of Russian peacekeepers whose presence was helping to avert direct military confrontation.

Lakerbaya also said Sukhumi had sent proposals to Moscow on the resumption of rail traffic from Psou to Inguri.

Abkhaz Parliament Statement on Russian-Georgian Treaty

LD0710110195 Sukhumi Republic of Abkhazia Radio in Georgian 0532 GMT 7 Oct 95

[Statement issued by the parliament of the Republic of Abkhazia on 4 October — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] A treaty between Russia and Georgia, which was signed in Tbilisi on 15 September 1995, and which affects interests of Abkhazia, has complicated the situation dramatically in and around Abkhazia. An agreement on Russian military bases in Georgia is especially alarming. One task of the bases is to protect Georgia's territorial integrity, together with Georgian armed forces. The agreement includes a Russian military base in the town of Gudauta, although it is situated in Abkhazian territory and its status can only be determined through an agreement with the authorities of Abkhazia.

Also alarming is a memorandum on the restoration of the railroad at the Veseloye-Samtredia border section, which stipulates managing, running and protecting railroad facilities by the Russian side. However, a resolution adopted 21-23 September 1994 by the commission on economic coordination, which included representatives of Abkhazia, Georgia, Armenia, the United Nations, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE], stipulates that Abkhazia would be considered as a party of the work to be done. The Abkhaz side wants the restoration of railroad traffic, including through traffic, but everything relating to this issue should be agreed upon with the authorities of Abkhazia.

The situation was aggravated by exercises held by the peacekeeping forces in Gali District on 30 September. The exercises envisaged the deployment of a battalion in the territory of Abkhazia, with its personnel comprising citizens of Georgia and ethnic Georgians. The moment the battalion was deployed in Gali District, Georgian police units followed. These activities coincided with the statement made by the Georgian head of state, Eduard Shevardnadze, which said that the issue of Gali District would be settled in the next few days, and jurisdiction of the Republic of Georgia would be restored there. It is noteworthy that attempts are being made to revise the results of the two-year Abkhaz-Georgian negotiations, that is, agreements reached under the UN aegis, with the participation of Russia and the OSCE, which outline the fundamental principles of future relations between Abkhazia and Georgia.

It is also alarming that the recent agreement was signed in Tbilisi, despite the fact that a Russian-Georgian treaty signed in Tbilisi on 3 February 1995 has still to be ratified. It seems that despite the fact that this treaty has not been ratified because of the failure to settle relations with Abkhazia and South Ossetia, its principal provisions on cooperation between Russia and Georgia in the military sphere are being implemented on the basis of intergovernmental agreements.

Still advocating the continuation of the negotiation process, the parliament of the Republic of Abkhazia states that Abkhaz-Georgian relations can be settled only by peaceful means, and by considering the interests of the multi-ethnic population of Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze Expects Russia To Extradite Giorgadze

LD0810193395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1912 GMT 8 Oct 95

[By Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ZUGDIDI October 8 (Itar-Tass) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said he does not think Russia will give refuge to "the terrorist of international scale", Igor Giorgadze.

Addressing a conference of Georgian economists and administrators in Zugdidi, western Georgia, Shevardnadze said he expected Russia to extradite Giorgadze to Georgian law and order authorities.

He reminded the conference about a Russian-Georgian accord on extradition of persons charged of unlawful activities.

Igor Giorgadze, a former Georgian security chief, son of the Georgian Communist Party leader Panteleimon Giorgadze, is accused of masterminding the August 29 bomb attack on Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze said he thinks Giorgadze is hiding in Russia.

According to Georgian Interior Minister Shota Kviraia, plans to eliminate Shevardnadze were worked out at Giorgadze's apartment.

Earlier releases by Georgian police said a search in the house of Giorgadze turned up a handgun and munition for a submachine-gun.

Estonia

Leading Coalition Party Demands Interior Minister Resign

LD0810212195 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1900 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today the Party of Consolidation discussed the criminal case the Security Police initiated against the private security firm SIA, or the so-called case of secret recordings.

It is known that the Security Police found tapes of politicians' conversations, secretly recorded by Edgar Savisaar. The board of the Party of Consolidation condemns the way Savisaar acted and deems it necessary that he resign as the interior minister.

[Correspondent Kadi Alatalu] The scandal around the private security firm IA, which has attracted the attention of the Estonian public over the past few days, has reached an intermediate solution. What did the board of the Party of Consolidation discuss today?

[Jaak Tamm, deputy chairman of the Party of Consolidation]] The board of the Party of Consolidation agreed unanimously that such a thing is absolutely impermissible. It must not happen that one politician at will just tapes conversations with other politicians and the tapes are then found in a private security firm. We think there should be a lot more ethics in our society than there is now.

The board of the Party of Consolidation agreed unanimously that the most reasonable solution to the situation would be if Edgar Savisaar resigned.

[Correpondent] What happens if Savisaar will not resign voluntarily?

[Tamm] We sent a letter on this matter also to the board of the Centre Party, which is expected to convene on Monday [9 October] morning, and indicated unambiguously that we would find it very difficult to work together in a coalition if full trust did not exist between us. We think that this is a matter for the Center party, first of all. Maybe it would be best if the Centre Party itself recalls its minister from the government. [passage omitted]

Savisaar Not To Resign 'Yet'

WS0910145295 Tallinn BNS in English 1128 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Oct 9, BNS — Estonian Interior Minister Edgar Savisaar is not going to resign yet despite a demand for his stepping down by the senior party of the ruling coalition.

The resignation demand came on Sunday [8 October] over a scandal connected with reports that the security police in a raid on the headquarters of a private security agency on Sept. 22 had found tapes of conversations between some of the country's top politicians. The recordings were allegedly made by Savisaar.

The resignation demand was discussed by the Center Party council on Monday and the party council ruled to ask the Coalition Party of Prime Minister Tiit Vahi to explain the reasons of the demand.

Savisaar is the chairman of the Center Party.

The Center Party refused to reveal the exact content of the letter sent to the senior coalition party on Monday.

Security police in a search on Sept. 22 in the headquarters of the SIA private security agency in Tallinn reportedly found police files, lists of the phone numbers of incoming and outgoing calls of some phone owners made by the telephone company on orders from the Tallinn police, as well as reports by agents on surveillance of individuals. There were also tapes with recordings of conversations between some top politicians, including Tiit Vahi, Edgar Savisaar and opposition leader Siim Kallas.

Two days after the search, Savisaar in remarks to BNS said he had personally given orders for the operation.

Kalle Klandorf, one of the owners of SIA, served as adviser to Savisaar between April and September this year. Another owner, Urmas Piir, was the deputy police chief of Tallinn until Sept. 13, when he was replaced on that post by Klandorf.

Savisaar became the interior minister of the Cabinet of Prime Minister Tiit Vahi on April 12. He was prime minister from 1990 till 1992, over the period of the country's formal regaining of independence from the Soviet Union. He had previously been economics minister and chief of the Planning Committee. Savisaar entered politics in 1988 as one of the initiators and later the head of the Popular Front movement.

Parliament Postpones Ratification of Agreements With Russia

LD0910174295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1426 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TALLINN, Oct 9 (Interfax) — The Estonian parliament took the decision Monday to drop the ratification of the Estonian-Russian agreements on the withdrawal of Russian troops and on social guarantees for the Russian military pensioners from this week's agenda. Discussion of the issue earlier had been scheduled for Wednesday.

Deputies Toomas Alatalu and Ando Leps, who had made the proposal, stated that "the documents are not prepared for consideration."

The proposal was supported by 40 deputies. Six deputies, including deputies of the Russian faction, were against it, and four abstained from voting.

The agreements were signed in Moscow on July 26, 1994, by presidents Lennart Meri and Boris Yeltsin. The Russian parliament has ratified these agreements.

Latvia

New Parliament Divided Into Two Blocs

WS0910134795 Tallinn BNS in English
2013 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Oct 6, BNS — Seven of the nine parties elected to the new Latvian parliament have created two opposite but almost equally strong political blocs, both of which would have big problems in having their Cabinet confirmed.

The right-leaning National Bloc of Fatherland and Freedom, National Conservative LNNK and Farmers Union is set to continue economic reform and movement toward European organizations.

The National Bloc claims it will build relations with other countries on the basis of equal partnerships.

The left-leaning bloc of the centrist-leftist Democratic Party Saimnieks, National Harmony Party, Unity Party and radical People's Movement for Latvia also maintains support for economic reforms and EU membership.

A major place in its foreign policies is granted to good relations with Russia.

Both groupings have voiced readiness to create a government.

The choice of the candidate prime minister, however, rests with the president.

In his first post-election interview, President Guntis Ulmanis said he would possibly entrust the new government setup to the National Bloc.

Nevertheless, neither of the two blocs has enough votes to confirm a government.

The National Bloc has 29 seats and even if the current ruling liberal Latvia's Way joins it the number of seats will not exceed 46.

The Leftist Coalition has 48 seats and it hopes for the six votes of the Socialist Party to gain a majority vote of 54 in the 100-seat parliament.

The Leftist Coalition nominated Saimnieks leader Ziedonis Cevers as candidate prime minister.

Analysts question the stability of the Leftist Coalition because it involves political forces with contrary views on many keynote issues.

The leftists currently lack an accord on monetary policies and land market which makes implementation of reform policies unthinkable.

Cevers advocates reviewed monetary policies and dismissal of the current chief banker, Einars Repse, while Joachim Siegerist (For Latvia) condemns the proposals as "a betrayal of the people."

Moreover, Siegerist endorses for a land market for foreign citizens, while Unity Party head Alberts Kauls has spoken against the "sell-out of Latvia."

Their commitment to work for the EU membership may also turn out to be merely a declaration because it is consistently backed only by National Harmony Party and its leader Janis Jurkans.

The Unity Party says that Latvia should join the EU if it is economically advantageous and corresponds to the interests of farmers.

Latvia's foreign relations may be undermined by the possible entrance of German-born populist politician Joachim Siegerist to the new government.

Siegerist, a dual citizen who was naturalized a subject of Latvia thanks to his parents, has been convicted in Germany for inciting racial hatred. Siegerist also heads a radical right wing party there.

Siegerist himself did not run in the last weekend elections because he does not speak the Latvian language.

His party's unexpected success is being explained with populist promises of overall welfare which were keenly welcomed by the numerous low income population.

In addition, Siegerist gave out food and clothes to the needy against a promise that they will vote for his party.

The National Bloc parties having similar economic programs, an agreement with centrist Latvia's Way and one other political force stands the main compromise to be reached.

The election campaign of the bloc's most successful Fatherland and Freedom (14 seats) was based on a sharp criticism of the ruling Latvia's Way.

The National Bloc and Latvia's Way have so far agreed on political cooperation mainstreams putting an emphasis on the EU and NATO bids, unchanged naturalization procedures and monetary policies.

Latvia's Way will decide Monday whether to remain in opposition or to try to participate in a government setup.

It is not clear yet which of the left wing parties could join the National Bloc because all but Socialist Party have already entered the opposite formation.

Many politicians, however, doubt the stability of both blocs which were created in a hurry and approved by party leaders and not by deputies actually elected to the new parliament.

Some parties, like Unity Party and People's Movement for Latvia, lack realistic political programs.

Both mainly based their campaigns on the leaders — Siegerist and the former adviser to the Soviet Union's president, Alberts Kauls.

Neither Siegerist nor Kauls ran for the parliament. Siegerist does not know the language, while Kauls was rejected for collaboration with the Communist Party.

The official election returns will be announced next week.

Leftist Coalition Includes Democrats, People's Movement

WS0610133295 Tallinn BNS in English
1455 GMT 5 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Oct 05, BNS — The leftist coalition centering around Democratic Party Saimnieks and the radical People's Movement for Latvia agreed Thursday to form a common bloc in the next parliament.

People's Movement for Latvia, or Siegerist's Party, has not yet signed the coalition agreement but it will be done soon, said Saimnieks' leader Ziedonis Cevers.

The coalition would not reveal the text of the agreement.

Thus, the leftist coalition may hope for 48 seats in the 100-member legislature, which is still not enough to confirm a government.

Nevertheless, coalition leaders claim they will attain confirmation of a government by 54 votes.

The number can be reached if the leftist coalition draws in the Socialist Party, which has six seats, according to tentative returns.

Socialist Party's leader Larisa Lavina has said that her party would cooperate with any force which supports its principles, basically, respect toward the Constitution.

The other large grouping of political forces, the National Bloc, would have 45 votes if the current ruling Latvia's Way joins it.

"We are united by a wish to assume responsibility for bringing the national economy out of crisis. Our political principles focus on good relations with Russia and further integration into Europe," said Cevers.

Siegerist described the move as "a medium rightist coalition with a leftist appendix which lets live until getting inflamed."

Siegerist told reporters he would have been more pleased by a coalition with the national conservative Fatherland and Freedom but its leader Maris Grinblats denied the proposal, thus, "betraying his electors."

The leftist coalition now includes Saimnieks, Siegerist Party, National Harmony Party and Latvian Unity Party.

National Harmony Party leader Janis Jurkans said his party joined the coalition because it favored its foreign political program.

Unity Party's Alberts Kauls noted that the coalition would allow to implement its pre-election program.

The main uniting principles of the new coalition are unclear yet but the declaration on changing state economic policies.

Answering on a BNS question on sales of land to foreign citizens, Siegerist said "who says 'no' to a land market for foreigners says 'yes' to Latvian poverty."

Unity Party leader Alberts Kauls, however, added that no agreement has been reached on the issue yet and stressed that they "would not admit sell-out of Latvia."

The coalition's attitude is also uncertain yet toward the rumored devaluation of the national currency and dismissal of Bank of Latvia Governor Einars Repse.

Cevers conceded that the rate of the lat should be coordinated with economic interests and the role of Repse and the Bank of Latvia in strengthening of economy should be cleared out.

Siegerist maintained that manipulations with the lat rate are inadmissible. "We do not intend to fire Repse," said Siegerist.

Jurkans denied an allegation that Siegerist's participation in forming the new government would slow down Latvian movement toward Europe and undermine relations with Germany.

As reported, Siegerist has been convicted in Germany and sentenced to 18 months in prison for inciting racial hatred.

"Siegerist in the government is an interior affair of Latvia," said Jurkans.

Siegerist himself told Latvian reporters that he did not call for racial hatred but pointed to abusive treatment of children by Gypsies.

Siegerist refused to answer to questions why he has not mastered the Latvian language during his three-year stay in the Baltic country and dismissed the questions as "stupid."

Leaders of the coalition reiterated that "its door is open" for other political forces that would like to join.

After the press conference, Cevers noted that they would focus on individual politicians rather than on "the quarrelsome parties." Cevers also said he would like to see in his government several members of the liberal Latvia's Way, including incumbent Interior Minister Janis Adamsons and parliament Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs.

Lithuania

New Economics Minister Appointed 5 Oct

WS0910111995 Vilnius ELTA in English 1749 GMT 5 Oct 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 858]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, October 5, ELTA — Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas appointed Secretary of the Lithuanian Economic Ministry Vytas Navickas Lithuanian Economic Minister by the decree of October 5.

Navickas was born in 1952. In 1975 graduated from the Vilnius University after acquiring the profession of economist- mathematician.

Vytas Navickas was working in the Economic faculty of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, was heading the Economic reform sector of the Economic department of the Lithuanian Council of Ministers.

By the decision of the Lithuanian Supreme Council of April 2, Navickas was appointed Economic Minister in the Prunskiene's Government.

In May of 1991 Navickas resigned from the post and became deputy Economic Minister after Gediminas Vagnorius became head of Government.

Up till now Vytas Navickas was in the post of secretary of the Economic Ministry (the present post of deputy of Economic Minister.)

The newly appointed Economic Minister is married and is a father of 2.

Official on U.S. Citizen Suspected of Jewish Persecution

WS0610155295 Vilnius ELTA in English 1749 GMT 5 Oct 95

[From "News Bulletin" No. 858]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, October 5, ELTA — According to Seimas chancellor Neris Germanas, "Lithuania should assume a clear position in the investigation of the case of US national Alexander Lileikis charged with persecution of Jews and should insist on his extradiction only after gathering well-grounded legal evidence".

At the press conference on Thursday the parliamentarian said that "no mistake could be made, as yet there are no concrete documents".

Germanas attended the ceremony of opening the Lithuanian embassy in Israel last week. During the meetings with high Israeli officials Neris Germanas understood that "Israel was not raising the question of Lileikis". According to him, "this was a matter of concern for the World Jewish community and Lithuania".

Based on earlier reports US law-enforcement officials expressed doubts on Lithuania's readiness to carry out legal procedure against Lileikis, 88. Nevertheless, Lithuanian officials noted that they were ready to investigate the crimes of the suspect and impose punishment.

According to Germanas, the main obstacle in the Lileikis' case is that the Lithuanian-US agreement on legal assistance signed in 1924 is no longer valid. Germanas said that Lithuania sent a new draft agreement on legal assistance to the United States over a year ago, but the proposal to reconsider and sign the agreement was received not long ago.

Next month Lithuanian law-enforcement officials are due to leave for the USA for making final adjustments on the draft agreement.

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